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THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2012

Leekes launches NEW discount card

*Shoppers' delight at superb savings plus fantastic free finance**

It's great news for all home improvers in South Wales this week as local retailer Leekes unveiled plans to introduce their strongest ever finance offer, plus a fantastic new discount card with savings of up to 20% off† 'finishing touches'.

The family-owned department store, known locally as the home experts, already offer fantastic savings on a huge range of furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and more. But, for a limited time only, there's nothing to pay until 2013, followed by up to a further two years of interest free credit*.

And that's not all. Leekes are also keen to reward customers with a fantastic new 'finishing touches' discount card that delivers savings of up to 20% off related purchases.

Emma Leeke sums up their approach: "At Leekes we don't just sell furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and conservatories - but also the paints, tiles, saucepans, towels, lights and accessories to complete the look; and this is the case for every room in the home."

"By offering our new complimentary 'finishing touches' discount card, complete with a FREE design consultation from our experienced interiors specialists, we hope to turn even more home improvement dreams into a reality in 2012."

Right now there are fantastic new additions across your local Leekes store, including the latest trends for spring. Plus, affordable finance and the 'finishing touches' discount card are available until 28th March, subject to conditions and a minimum spend of £1000. Ask in store for details.

The new 'finishing touches' discount card is available with furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and conservatories and includes a FREE interior design consultation.

BUY NOW PAY 2013
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[LEEKES KITCHENS]

All things bright and beautiful

From gorgeous gloss to country charm, the extensive kitchen collection at Leekes has the essential ingredients to suit every taste and every pocket, with unmissable offers for a limited time only.

Leekes also have this season's hottest picks to complete your kitchen look! In bold shades of zesty yellow, hot pink and a co-ordinating stripe, the latest mix & match range from Kenwood will certainly add the perfect finishing touch to your new Leekes kitchen. Order now to spread the cost with free finance and enjoy up to 20% off* 'finishing touches' including tiles, paint, lighting, accessories and more.

[UTENSILS]

[SAUCEPANS]

[CUTLERY]

[KITCHENS | fact file]

Order your new kitchen this spring and the designers at Leekes will not only steer you through the wealth of worktop, appliance and cabinet choices - but can also provide a complete design, planning, installation and project management service.

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- **CASA Boston Black**
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[COUNTERTOP APPLIANCES]

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2012

'MY CONCERN WAS THAT CHILDREN WOULD THINK IT WAS A BUCKET THEY COULD USE TO PLAY WITH'

Father's shock over a syringe bucket yards from a beach

by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY father of two was shocked to see a syringe bucket for drug addicts standing on a waste bin at Jackson's Bay.

It has led the Vale Council to issue a warning that abandoning 'sharp containers' could lead to fines and imprisonment.

Nigel Evans and his sons Caleb (seven) and Tyler (four) decided to take advantage of the fine weather on Saturday, March 10, and spend an afternoon at the beach, but what Mr Evans saw when he arrived, surprised him.

Mr Evans explained: "We got to Jackson's Bay at lunchtime and saw a bright orange and yellow bucket on top of the waste bin.

It said it was for 'contaminated sharps'.

"My concern was that children would think it was a bucket they could use to play with.

"The top didn't look fixed in any way, which means items inside could be removed.

"Syringes hold obvious dangers and should be disposed of safely.

"It was unclear as to whether it had been placed on the bin officially or not. I can't believe anyone would be so irresponsible as to do that.

"I would be shocked if someone in authority had suggested putting that sort of bucket on a bin near the beach and no one had questioned it."

Mr Evans said he understood that it was a good idea to make sure syringes were not abandoned on the beach, but that a fixed bin out of the reach of children would be appropriate if it had been an official measure.

He said that in the past he had seen young children down at the beach, without adult supervision, and thought that a child might be tempted to use it to make sand castles or collect sea water.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

ARTS, CRAFTS AND WELSH CAKES!

Youngsters at Cylch Bethesda, Colcot Sports Centre Welsh playgroup had 'a fantastic week' celebrating St David's Day, making arts and crafts and cooking Welsh cakes.

Hazel hangs up her hair scissors – after 49 years!

by TIM CHAPMAN

'I'VE decided that 49 years of standing on my feet is enough!' declared popular Cadoxton hairdresser Hazel Fowler, who hangs up her scissors at Set 'n' Style this Saturday, March 17.

Hazel has been a fixture in Vere Street for 30 years and is well known to hundreds of people in Barry and Sully who have been her customers.

Prior to arriving in Cadoxton, she worked in Cardiff for almost two decades.

Hazel, aged 63, told The GEM: "This Saturday will be a very emotional day. Leaving after so many years, is going to be a real wrench."

Hazel lost her husband Terry, aged 60, last year, and it led her to re-evaluate her life.

"When Terry died, I thought to myself: what is the point of life? There are things I want to do, and I want to have time with my family.

"Forty nine years of standing on your feet is a long time – quite enough."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Hazel (centre) with Natasha Annandale (left) and long time customer and friend Mary Jenkins.

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Park workers used their own initiative

I WOULD like to thank Neil, Mike and Paul, of the Vale parks department for their swift and proactive work, as they repaired the four dog bins on Nells' Point last week.

I was very surprised to see them making repairs only a week after I had requested that the corroded bins be mended.

However, it was only when I approached them, that I understood they were not responding to my request at all, but that they had noticed the state of the bins for themselves and decided to go ahead and mend them.

They didn't wait to receive an instruction from a senior officer – they just used their initiative and have done so in all aspects of their work for years without expecting praise.

There is a need for another dog bin (with a non-metal base!) further along the top path to prevent people from throwing bags in the hedges and I welcome moves by the council to implement Plaid's calls for a tough programme of enforcement and fines.

Meanwhile, I would like to thank these three council workers for their sheer pride and enthusiasm for their work.

They are truly inspirational people, who deserve our thanks and acknowledgement.

Coun Steffan Wiliam, (Baruc ward, Plaid Cymru).

NOT A GOOD MIX AT BARRY

IT looks like the Vale Council are still playing with Port Road, Barry – any bets that it will be at least late summer before the contractors leave and everybody realises what they have done?

On the plus side, the little diversion looks like a good idea at the top of the link road.

To get there, unfortunately, drivers have to go through the pinch point created at the crematorium.

On the negative side, a bus stop after the blind bend coming from the Barry direction. Why wasn't this planned to be at the near-defunct entrance to the golf range?

The housing development at the top of the old lane, I hope, is not going to feed into the Port Road, as it's quite a busy road already...

Blind bend, bus stop,housing estate entrance/exit, crematorium entrance, fast traffic – not a good mix!

Well done, though, to the Vale Council, for getting so many things into a very small area.

Paul Blanchard, Barry.

'Pledges are hitting home'

IT seems that Labour's election pledges for the Vale are hitting home in some areas, as reported in your newspaper.

The Tories are desperately trying to implement our pledges, or claiming they are.

How cynical, bearing in mind they have had four years to do something.

The Barry Independents are complaining about Labour's pledges, whereas they have none.

Our pledges are exactly what they are, promises of what Labour will do if elected to run the Vale Council on May 3.

It's as simple as that!

Oh Yes, and Labour will once again have to deal with the mismanagement of the budget and bring back this year's £3.2 million overspend in social services.

Coun Neil Moore, Barry. (Vale Labour leader)

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'THE PLUME IS ALWAYS THERE'

COINCIDENTAL to your article about the Aberthaw Power Station 'meet the people' exercise (The GEM, March 8) and recent coverage of the emissions from the station, I recently captured photographic evidence which would suggest the station management's assertion that the yellow plume only occurs when the sun shines is not necessarily so.

My pictures were taken from Clements Colley Walk in generally overcast conditions and show the plume stretching right up the Bristol Channel to the Somerset levels..

I live at The Knap with daily views of this plume in all sorts of lighting, weather conditions and differing wind directions – the plume is always there so long as the chimney is emitting; it is just more visible on some occasions than others.

With the wind frequently blowing the plume right over The Knap and Barry, the smell of the emissions can be quite noticeable.

I'm sure the emission levels are within safe limits for humans, but the perceived pollution is, in my view, unacceptable.

I hope that the new NOx catalyst to be fitted will do away with this visible aspect of coal burning – perhaps the station's management could clarify if this will be the case?

Phil Dawson
Barry.

GEM NOTE:

Phil Allen, Aberthaw Power Station manager said: "There has always been a slight discolouration of the plume caused by nitrogen oxides or NOx

"This can be caused by a number of factors, such as fuel diet, boiler design and weather conditions.

"Due to the combination of fuel diet and boiler design, the NOx levels from Aberthaw Power Station are higher than some other coal fired stations in the UK. However, emissions and local air quality are continuously monitored and are within our operating environmental permit limits.

"We have had no recent incidences or breaches of our emissions.

"We are currently submitting a planning application to install technology at Aberthaw Power Station that would reduce the station's NOx emissions, which would significantly reduce discolouration of the plume.

"To support our emissions reduction project, we have set up a dedicated phone line, 01446 750106, and e-mail, aberthaw@rwenpower.com, and would welcome any issues local residents have."

Mr Dawson's photo is available to view on The GEM's website (www.barry-today.co.uk).

'Let's try a new Approach'

THE Vale Council's public consultation on the issue of providing recreational facilities at Cemetery Approach is a great opportunity for the community and for the council to create an attractive and useable space.

Public consultation should be about listening to concerns and suggestions and acting upon them. It is also important to publish the outcome so that people can be reassured that the process was genuine.

The council have made a good start by committing themselves to comprehensive community involvement. There appears to be an open canvas for the public and the council and I welcome the initiative: let's make it work.

The first key issue for me is for the council to identify a project manager whose experience and expertise will enable him or her to work with and within the community including local schools, liaising with architects, technical experts and politicians, to identify and secure various sources of funding, and in driving the project forward.

The ideal person would be an individual from outside the council who can build strong links within the authority.

The public are likely to be more receptive to an external appointment and getting the public involved will be no easy task.

It will require commitment, enthusiasm and credibility.

I hope the Town Council is given an opportunity to be involved.

Some important points for the regeneration scheme would include:minimising vandalism; ensuring the space is usable for everyone, particularly children, the elderly and disabled; preparing a project attractive to funding providers; relevance to the cemetery and its visitors; diversity of use and with a high quality finish.

During the campaign to save Cemetery Approach, a number of individuals wrote to the Action Group describing uses for the facility and, as chair of the group, I will submit them to the council for consideration.

However, people will still need to contact the council with their ideas and demonstrate their support for this initiative.

The consultation is to take place during April, so please send your thoughts and suggestions to the chief executive's office via telephone, e-mail or post.

This is a great opportunity for the community and the Council to work together to create and regenerate a valuable public amenity.

Dennis Harkus
(Chair, Save Cemetery Approach Action Group, Barry)

Vale planning: 'more effort is needed'

THE Conservation Area Advisory Group is made up of nominated members from local civic societies and other interested groups.

It is currently chaired by the vice chair of the Vale planning committee. The remit of the group is to advise the Vale planning committee concerning the design aspects of certain planning applications in conservation areas such as Barry Garden Suburb and Barry Marine.

The group normally sits once a month in the Dock Offices, members of Town and Community Councils are invited to attend in cases of relevance to their areas.

This group is not open to the general public – however, there is a core membership of experts in their field from seven groups: Georgian group, The Victorian Society, The Council for British Archaeology, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, The Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales, The Royal Society for Architects in Wales and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

At present, only two of the core experts are appointed, with five of these positions declared vacant. At its last meeting, only the Georgian expert was available. With such a large deficit in expert advice, I don't think this committee is, at present, adding value to the decision-making of the planning committee.

Now is the time to rethink how this committee operates and look towards appointing from local history groups.

Such groups will help provide valuable dialogue between the council and the public and should include local residents, community representatives, local architects and historians.

Considering the amount of added effort, time and expense expected from those submitting planning application in conservation areas, I think the Vale should also put a bit more effort into filling the vacancies on the Conservation Area Advisory Group.

Coun Shirley Hodges
(Barry Town Council)

'Funds for Barry, question of timing'

MANY in Barry will have been very concerned to find that the Conservative-run Vale Council commissioned a report on the future of Barry Town Centre which has never been published, formally read by the cabinet or scrutinised by local councillors.

The report was only made available under a Freedom of Information request by Plaid Cymru.

While the report contains a number of excellent suggestions for the town centre, the fact that it was kept secret from councillors and the general public for a whole two years after it was handed over by the well-paid consultants leads to a series of questions as to what the Conservatives would gain from doing so.

Who knew about this report? Who was involved in keeping it hidden? There is also a question of timing.

In March 2010, Plaid Cymru Regeneration Minister Jocelyn Davies gave £9m to the town for regeneration improvements.

That money was intended, in addition to ordinary works, to improve Barry, not as a replacement for work which the council should have been undertaking anyway – and which we now find out had already been recommended in this report.

Last year a Conservative cabinet member was forced to apologise for claiming that Barry received too much money.

With this sort of attitude, many people are asking if council money originally intended for improving Barry was replaced by the Welsh Assembly grant and then spent elsewhere in the Vale?

The Conservatives must come clean.

Dr Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru), Barry.

'Victory was an answer to prayer'

REGARDING the recent GEM letter by M G de Garis – *'No late American entry, but people, not planes, won us the war'* – I would like to take this further by looking higher.

I have read *'Rees Howells: Intercessor'* – about the amazing way Rees Howells and the Bible College of Wales prayed before and during the War.

I know King George VI and Parliament called the country to seven National Days of Prayer, and many people cried out to God for deliverance.

I believe God graciously heard those prayers. He is sovereign over the affairs of men (humanity) and, therefore, God 'won us the War'.

So thank you, God (it would have been awful if the Allies had lost) as well as thanks and appreciation to the USA and everyone who fought, helped and prayed.

Mrs Valerie Provence, Dinas Powys.

WEALTH TAX

EXAM question for aspiring Lib Dems: *Wealth creation good, created wealth bad...* ***Discuss.***

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	11.24	8.2	23.57	8.1
16 Fri			12.45	7.7
17 Sat	01.36	7.8	14.19	7.6
18 Sun	02.55	7.9	15.41	8.0
19 Mon	03.59	8.1	16.35	8.4
20 Tues	04.49	8.9	17.21	8.9
21 Wed	05.39	9.4	18.01	9.3
22 Thur	06.15	9.6	18.33	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by NWN Ltd.
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'Sharps' bucket on Jackson's Bay bin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Evans added: "Perhaps, an adult found the bucket somewhere on the beach or in the sea and thought it would be better placed on the bin – it is difficult to tell," he added.

Buckets like the one at Jackson's Bay are sometimes placed in doctors' surgeries or hospitals to encourage drug addicts to dispose of needles responsibly.

The GEM reported Mr Evans' concerns to the Vale Council which confirmed that it had not been an official measure.

Clifford Parish, the operational manager for visible services, said: "The sharps container shown in the photograph is not one that we would use in waste management and cleansing, and irrespective of whether it is one of our sharps boxes or not, I can assure our residents and visitors that we would never leave a sharps' box, used or unused, out in the open air unattended, where the public could gain access to its contents.

"Furthermore, we do not provide sharps boxes to any syringe or needle users.

"The only use we make of such containers is for our appropriately trained and equipped staff to use them to collect any illegally, discarded used syringes or needles on open land for which the council is responsible to keep clear of litter and refuse."

Mr Parish explained that the department did not provide special containers for needles in beach areas either.

"We also do not provide sharps' boxes for our residents or visitors to use at any of our beaches or public conveniences.

"We believe that this would not only be inappropriate, but could put our general users at an unacceptable risk, due to possible contact with spent needles."

Mr Parish said the bucket had been taken away on Monday.

"The rather poor quality sharps' box placed on top of our litter bin at the Jackson's Bay public convenience was removed by our cleansing staff yesterday as soon as it was discovered there.

"It was not placed there by us. I would be grateful if the newspapers could advise their readers that the abandoning of a sharps' box, either with a council litterbin or anywhere in the open air where the general public have access, is at best totally irresponsible and at worst illegally depositing hazardous waste. It could carry an unlimited fine and imprisonment."

Mr Parish added: "It is slightly worrying that while our cleansing staff dealt with the sharps' box appropriately, once aware of its presence at Jackson's Bay, that we have not received any service request directly in respect to this incident up until this press enquiry."

The bucket on top of the waste bin, just a few yards away from the beach.

On the outside of the bucket it says: 'Danger destroy by incineration' and 'contaminated sharps only.'

Tilly inspires Matthew to run in the London Marathon

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Matthew with his niece Tilly. She has inspired him to raise funds for The Bobath Centre.

A Barry man, whose niece suffers from cerebral palsy, has been inspired to run the London Marathon to raise funds for The Bobath Centre.

Matthew Pimm works as a make-up artist in London, but his thoughts are never far away from his family back in Barry.

He told The GEM: "Since moving to the south-east of England five years ago, I have been very lucky to have gained two nieces and a nephew – with one more on the way.

"Unfortunately, the oldest one of them, Tilly, has cerebral palsy and will face many challenges throughout her life.

"It is because of her than I want to raise funds for the Bobath Centre."

Among the fields of treatment the centre specialises in, is dealing with neuro-developmental conditions such as cerebral palsy.

Matthew added: "This is a cause close to my heart and I've set myself the challenge of raising £1,500.

"The Bobath Centre is an amazing charity that helps children with cerebral palsy by giving them intense physiotherapy."

Sian Pimm, Matthew's mother and Tilly's grandmother, explained: "Tilly was born 12 weeks early and after her many early battles for life remains an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

"She is a very happy, cheeky, but determined three year old."

There are two ways people can help Matthew. One is by going into Catwalk Hairdressers on Holton Road and making a donation. The other is by going online to: uk.virginmoneygiving.com/tillyisastar and making donation there.

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'RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT'

Public meeting is called in Dinas Powys to discuss possible '400 more houses'

by TIM CHAPMAN

A public meeting is being held in Dinas Powys to discuss the possibility that 400 houses could be built in the village.

The meeting is to take place on Monday, March 19, at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall on Britway Road and has been called by Dinas Powys Community Council.

Coun Jeff James, the Vale cabinet member for planning said he felt the move was 'premature', and would cause unnecessary worry.

However, the chairman of the community council Coun Chris Williams explained: "There is a great deal of interest in the proposals contained in the Local Development Plan issued by the Vale Council.

"Not only are there plans for housing at the St Cyres school site at Murch Crescent and off Caerleon Road, but also many that will affect Sully Road and indeed the main Cardiff Road.

"Residents have expressed concern about the impact these additional houses will have on the local roads."

Coun Williams claimed that the Vale Council needed to supply more information regarding traffic issues in the village, and he was disappointed that it hadn't organised a meeting in the community relating to the LDP.

He went on: "Already the main road is over burdened for much of the day.

"Also the Merrie Harrier junction is often gridlocked in every direction.

"It is a great shame that the Vale Council has refused to organise a meeting in our community. Therefore it was felt that the Dinas Powys Community Council should step into the breach."

In February, as the LDP was put out for consultation, Vale councillor Margaret Randall said she was concerned that with 4,800 houses designated for Dinas Powys, Barry, Sully, Penarth, and Llandough, the road network would not be able to accommodate all the extra vehicles.

At the time, she said: "The infrastructure will not cope – the Merrie Harrier junction and the Baron's Court are operating at their limit."

Rob Thomas, the head of planning and transportation at the Vale Council, pointed out that as part of the Deposit LDP consultation, exhibitions were planned in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

"The exhibitions are staffed with officers available to provide advice on the process.

"In addition, the exhibitions are being held on Saturdays and in the evenings to allow those who work the opportunity of benefiting from the sessions."

He said the response of the public had been good.

"The exhibitions that have been held to date have been well attended and residents from Dinas Powys have the opportunity, along with other communities in the Vale, to attend these exhibitions.

"It is not practical or feasible to hold exhibitions in all communities, and the approach that has been taken is considered to be entirely reasonable."

Coun Jeff James, the cabinet member for planning and transportation said: "I am disappointed that Coun Williams is raising matters that are premature.

"The LDP is a key document that has been presented for consultation.

"This is the chance for people to have their say on the principle of development, whereas Coun Williams is dragging up matters that would be relevant if and when a planning application was submitted.

"I suspect his actions are motivated by the elections, but of course they cause concern and distress to local residents."

'Reduce Port Road housing'

— COUNCILLOR'S PLEA

BARRY councillor, Rob Curtis, has questioned whether the planned building of more than 1,200 houses along Port Road will have detrimental consequences for the economic future of Barry and Cardiff Wales Airport.

He argues that this is the main road link for businesses wishing to get to Cardiff or the M4 and that the extra traffic would result in gridlock.

Coun Curtis has tabled a question for the Vale Council's full meeting on March 7.

Coun Curtis told The GEM: "The future prosperity of Barry depends on this road being open for the businesses of Barry and the wider Vale.

"A recent crash forced this road to be closed and caused gridlock chaos in Barry and Dinas Powys. Adding more roundabouts and traffic lights will mean this vital road link will become gridlocked at key times of the day.

"This will mean vital jobs may locate elsewhere with good road links.

"I urge the people of Barry to stand up and tell the Vale Council that enough is enough and to reduce the amount of housing along this vital economic link."

TOWN'S MARKET STREET CLUB CELEBRATES 60th BIRTHDAY

BARRY'S Market Street Club celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

In the town, many people know it as the BP Club or simply as 'The Club'.

It first welcomed people in the early fifties as the secretary of Market Street Club Ltd, Paul Wride, explained: "It opened in 1952 as a social club for the employees of Distillers and then the BP Chemicals plant in Barry.

"Since then, the club has seen plenty of changes over the years.

"When BP closed in Barry, there was a danger that the club itself would close but that didn't happen and this year it celebrates its 60th birthday."

The 60th anniversary celebrations began earlier this month with an entertainment night and will continue throughout the year.

Paul said that people walking past outside could be forgiven for not realising that it was a social club.

"But once inside, they find a friendly atmosphere where visitors are made very welcome.

"In the downstairs bar, is a full size snooker table with a jukebox, a darts room and a comfortable lounge with wall mounted TV.

"Perhaps the best known feature of the club is the function room upstairs. If you haven't been to a party in the function room yourself, then the likelihood is you will know someone who has."

All sorts of family occasions are held there, from birthday parties and Christenings, to retirement celebrations.

Paul said: "The club also hosts bingo on Thursday evenings at 8.30pm with cabaret entertainment thrown in.

"We also hold regular 'open-mic' nights and quiz nights."

He added: "If you're a lapsed member, or have just got out of the habit of calling in, please take the time to pay us a visit.

"You'll be pleasantly surprised by the changes we've made.

"There have been some big changes at the club recently but the one thing that remains constant at the Market Street Club is that people are given a warm welcome."

Membership is £3.50 a year (plus £5 admin fee for brand new members). For more information, people can go to www.marketstreetbarry.com

ABOVE: Market Street Club.

Memories of a Boathouse guide

THE March meeting of Dinas Powys WI began as usual with business; the president welcomed members and one new member, Carol Bevan.

Charities for this year are The Associated Country Women of the World Project for the women of Bangem, Cameroon, who are desperately in need of cooking oil.

ACWW will cover the cost of buying and planting seedling palms with assistance and supervision from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Our main charity is Dinas Powys Scouts, who are planning an extension to the hall, which we use for a number of our activities; so we hope to raise funds by holding a coffee morning and raffles during the year.

Plans include a skittles match against Dinas Powys Probus on March 19, and 42 members are attending our birthday dinner on March 29 at St Andrews Major Golf Club.

Our Institute has become concerned that our local bank is cutting back on its opening hours to only two days a week. We anticipate problems with banking, as often when banking hours are reduced, the banks eventually close.

We feel that this would be a problem for Dinas Powys trade, and accordingly have written to the bank expressing our concerns.

The speaker for the evening was Sheila Lowe, whose talk was entitled 'The Ramblings of a Boathouse Guide,' telling us about the life of Dylan Thomas, and how she was a guide at the Boathouse in Laugharne, where Dylan wrote much of his poetry and prose.

With his wife, Caitlin, he had three children, but only spent Christmas Day with them each year.

Sheila was present in 1982 when a plaque was placed in Westminster Abbey.

She ended her talk with readings from some of Dylan's work, including excerpts from *Under Milkwood*.

She was thanked by Midge Watson.

The competition for a picture of a boat, was won by Averil Harris with a photograph of her own boat, and the raffle was won by Maureen Bater.

We meet on April 3 when we shall be listening to Marjorie Page talking about Clarice Cliff at 7.30pm. **BD**

Welsh medium school scoops challenge award

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg is the 11th school in Wales and the first Welsh medium secondary school to achieve the prestigious NACE Cymru Challenge Award for more able and talented pupils.

It was awarded by NACE: the National Association for Able Children in Education, a leading national education organisation and registered charity established for 28 years, which helps teachers provide for pupils with high abilities whilst enabling all pupils to flourish.

A spokeswoman reported: "Assessors, who spent a day in the school, were impressed by the strong leadership and management, which keeps the needs of more able learners at the forefront of the school's work, and the good support provided by the governors."

TAKE A WALK FOR LIFE IN BARRY

LOCAL people are being invited to take a bracing walk to build up an appetite for lunch on Sunday, March 25, while raising funds for Kidney Wales.

The walk will start at 11.30am from Morrison's car park, heading down Broad Street, along the Parade to the Lake, then back along Park Avenue and back. For sponsor forms and further information, call Debbie Baker on 07876597021 or email debron63@hotmail.com.

Once again, this year's Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life is being organised by the Baker family in memory of Lloyd Baker and Richard and John Taylor.

Libraries' Teenquest challenge!

Left to right: Laura Nicholas and Sashini Jayasinghe (iPod Shuffle winners) then to the right of Coun Hampton is Chloe Marie Wilson, winner of the iPod Touch.

YOUNG people between the ages of 11-14 who took part in the TeenQuest Challenge, in Barry and Cowbridge libraries have received prizes.

Participants had to complete five key tasks. Read a book and post a review online; watch a DVD and complete a review card; complete a quiz using online resources and play a game on Wii.

For each task completed, the participant received a free DVD loan. Those who completed all five tasks were entered into a raffle to win either an iPod Touch or an iPod Shuffle.

The iPod Shuffles were won by Laura Nicholas (Barry) and Sashini Jayasinghe (Cowbridge), while the iPod Touch was won by Chloe Marie Wilson (Barry).

The prizes were presented to the three winners by Coun Anthony Hampton at Barry Library.

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Live Band every other Friday at 9pm
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16th March - TWO TICKETS TO THE GUN SHOW
30th March - SILVERBACKS
APRIL
13th April - ROCKIN 58
27th April - NAVIGATORS
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Cadoxton's Hazel thanks customers on her retirement

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hazel added: "My friends have been a bit shocked, but it means I'll be able to go out for a coffee with them."

Hazel has two daughters, Becky and Heidi, two grandchildren, Ben and Seren, and a great grandson, Jack.

"I'm looking forward to a holiday with some of the family.

"We're planning a trip to Florida and Disney World."

Hazel, who lives in Rhoose, began training as a hairdresser at the age of 14 in Cardiff.

"I'd leave school and go and work in the evenings and do Saturdays.

"I started at Stephanie's in the Macross store in Queen Street.

"Later, I worked for the Regency Salon in Maryport Road."

After 19 years in Cardiff, Hazel decided she wanted to run her own business.

Over a 30 year period in Vere Street, she has run her business from three premises.

Her daughter Becky said: "Her retirement is so well deserved. She has been so kind and helpful for her customers. She even gives some of the elderly customers a lift home after doing their hair.

"Mum has also trained up lots of people over the years."

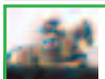
One of the clients who will miss Hazel is Mary Jenkins, who lives in Barry.

Mary said: "It is amazing to think that 45 years ago she used to do my mother's hair in Cardiff and in recent years she has done my hair."

Hazel added: "What is the secret of being a good hairdresser?

"You've got to like people and enjoy working with your colleagues – and I've been blessed with mine.

"I want to thank my customers for all the support they've given me over the years."



POINT TO POINT STEEPLECHASES ON

Saturday 24th March 2012

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Car & Driver £10 - Passengers £5 each.
Children under 16 Free. Pedestrians £5

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BUTLIN'S REUNION

BARRY Island Butlins reunion is on July 7 at the Shadows Nightlcub in Barry Island.

Contact dcottydotty46@hotmail.com.

High Street will run an Easter Egg hunt

by TIM CHAPMAN

A young couple who own a High Street gift shop are pledging to run an Easter event for the children of Barry on Saturday, April 7.

As The GEM reported last week, the traditional 'Bonnet Parade' appears to have fallen by the wayside because the local traders' association does not have a current leadership.

However, Jodie and Ian Weavers of Butterflies are determined to run an Easter egg hunt in partnership with other shops in High Street.

Jodie explained: "Easter is coming up soon and there are businesses who want to do something for local children.

"We want to hold an Easter egg hunt and have already spoken to other shop owners who are keen."

Jodie and Ian Weavers of Butterflies have pledged to organise an Easter egg hunt in partnership with other shops in High Street.

The idea is that youngsters, accompanied by mums and dads, or guardians, will have to track down pictures of Easter eggs outside and inside shops, and featuring a vital letter – the letters will lead to a phrase and prizes!

Jodie said: "It will be good for retailers because people will be coming into their businesses and seeing the products on offer."

Ian said: "It is important that High Street businesses continue to hold events for the local community."

When more details are available on the event, The GEM will publicise them.

● Former chairman of High Street traders, Tony Hopkins, has issued an appeal for someone to help remove the remainder of last year's Christmas lights.

Health and safety red tape means it has to be someone properly qualified.

Tony said: "I'd be grateful if anyone who has the right qualifications would be willing to help.

"I'm not even allowed to climb a ladder!"

Tony can be contacted at Vic Hopkins & Son on 01446 735265.

WHAT ABOUT A ROUNDABOUT?

I HAVE read with interest the ideas put forward by readers and 'experts' about the problem of the link road over the years, but I have yet to see anything mentioned about a simple roundabout at the Coldbrook junction.

The roundabout at the Lidl junction works, the roundabouts all the way up to Culverhouse Cross work – is there any reason why it won't work here?

S Phillips, Barry.

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Side Dishes: Aloo Gobi, Rice, Plain Nan

B Set Meal for Two Persons - £19.95
Starters: Pappadums, Chutney Tray, Chicken Kufti, Meat Samosa.
Main: Chicken Moghli Mossaka, Lamb Dupiaza.
Side Dishes: Bombay Aloo, Pilau Rice, Garlic Nan

C Set Meal for Two Persons - £22.95
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**Excludes King Prawn and Tandoori Dishes*

D Vegetarian Set Meal for Two Persons - £18.95
Starters: Pappadums, Chutney Tray, Onion Bhajee, Vegetable Samosa.
Main: Aloo Moly, Jeera Aloo Motor. **Side Dishes:** Saag Mirch, Vegetable Rice, Kulcha Nan.

SPECIALITIES OF THE HOUSE

Aloo Chicken (Hot or Medium) £6.15
(Off-the-bone chicken with spicy diced potato cooked in a rich sauce)
Chicken or Lamb Lahore (Hot or Medium) £6.25
(Tender pieces of chicken or lamb tikka grilled over charcoal, cooked in a tandoori sauce with chopped onions, green peppers with a rich sauce)
Chicken Pepali (Hot or Medium) £6.25
(Cooked with green peppers, onion, tomatoes and fresh mint)
Captain Pathila (Hot or Medium) £6.25
(Tender strips of chicken or lamb, prepared using fresh herbs and spices including coriander, mint, garlic and yoghurt in a rich tangy sauce and this really is an exotic flavoured dish)
Lime Chilli Goza (Hot) £6.15
(Diced chicken or lamb cooked with home-made chilli pickles)
Jerra Chicken (Hot or Medium) £6.15
(Highly aromatic dish cooked using roast cumin seeds)
South Indian Mustard (Hot) £6.25
(Barbequed pieces of chicken cooked with fresh garlic, mustard, chilli sauce and served with crisp red chillies)
Chicken or lamb Basanthi (Hot) £6.25
(Slightly hot sauce, cooked with onions, green peppers and fresh green chillies)
Mango Chicken (Mild) £6.15
(Marinated chicken cooked in a mild sauce with mango)
Garlic Chicken (Hot) £6.25
(A delicious chicken dish served with a combination of fresh spice, lemon juice, garlic and a touch of green chillies)
Chicken Moghli Mossaka (Medium) £6.15
(Tandoori strips of chicken, cooked with spicy minced lamb with a touch of masalla sauce)
King Prawn Nawabi (Hot or Medium) £8.95
(King prawns roasted in a clay oven, then cooked in a thick spicy sauce, served with stir-fried aubergines, garnished with fresh coriander and saffron onion)
Chicken Chilli Masalla)Hot) £6.25
(Prepared with exotic fresh hot spices and green chillies)
Shatkora (hot) £6.25
(Spicy chicken or lamb flavoured dish, cooked with shatkora, a fruit from the north eastern region of Bangladesh, giving this dish a true taste of Bangladesh cuisine)
Rajastani Chicken £6.50
(A sweet and sour dish of chicken strips, cooked with onions, peppers and green chillies in a rich sauce)

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Annual Lieutenancy service in St Fagans

THE Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, with his Deputy Lieutenants, held a service of morning prayer at St Mary's Church, St Fagans.

The Rector, Rev Anthony Wintle, officiated and the sermon was preached by Group Captain Rev Dr Desmond Harvey, of Llanmaes, chaplain to the Lieutenancy.

Lessons were read by the Lord Lieutenant and the Vice-Lord Lieutenant Sir Brooke Boothby and a reception was later held in St Fagans Castle.

Lord Lieutenants are the representatives of the crown in each county of the United Kingdom.

The appointment dates from Henry VIII's reign, when the initial role was to command the local militia.

The Lord Lieutenant is now responsible for official visits to the county by members of the royal family, among other duties.

Sir Paul and Lady Williams. During his career, he was chief executive of the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Pictures by **Heather March**

The Lord Lieutenant with his cadets.

The place to leave your hat!

ABOVE: Dr Peter Beck, the High Sheriff Mr Roger Thomas of Penarth, and Sir Brooke Boothby of Fonmon.

Protests grow over cutbacks at Cosmeston medieval village

ORGANISERS of two on-line petitions say that opposition to changes at Cosmeston Park Medieval Village is growing.

Recent cuts made by the Vale Council have meant that 'living history interpreters' who provide tours of the site have been made redundant.

Also, the collection of authentic rare breed animals has been removed, and special events staged throughout the year have been stopped.

As a result, Helen Reeves-Howard (a former employee) and Briony Banks (a former volunteer) started a Facebook group for people opposing the changes.

Helen said; "We became aware that there was an existing petition and simply planned to add the supporters that we collected on Facebook to that one.

"However, we now have 593 signatures, and it is still growing.

" In fact, due to requests from people who had no access to Facebook, we have also posted up a petition on *http://www.change.org/petitions/vale-of-glamorgan-council-re-think-their-changes-to-the-way-cosmeston-medieval-village-is-run*

Representatives of the Facebook protest group joined another protestor, Valerie Pool, at the Civic Offices Barry last week to hand over the petitions.

CCTV arrests

TEN people have been arrested in the Vale as a result of CCTV monitoring, one for alleged racial abuse.

CCTV operators contacted the police on 52 occasions during the week ending March 11.

One person, wanted on warrant, was arrested at Barry Road, Barry, while another was arrested for alleged theft at Broad Street on March 5.

At Holton Road, Barry, on March 6, one person was arrested for alleged criminal damage; another.arrested concerning being drunk in charge of a vehicle in Barry Island; and a third arrested for alleged theft at Holton Road, on March 7.

On March 8, two people were arrested over possession of drugs in Skomer Road, Barry, and another person was arrested involving theft in Holton Road.

There was an arrest concerning theft in Holton Road, on March 9; and another for alleged racial abuse in Windsor Road, Penarth, on March 11.

Careers Wales award for school

ST RICHARD Gwyn Catholic High School has received a Careers Wales education business partnership award for work experience.

Careers Wales stated: "For the last two years, the school has been highly successful in placing 100 per cent of its students through Careers Wales work experience database.

The assistant headteacher, Viv Burman and her staff, also ensure students receive quality preparation and debriefing activities to help them to get the most out of their work experience.

"The school's prework experience event has been promoted by the Education Business Partnership as a model which has been taken up by other schools."

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CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Pointing the way forward to equality for women

ACROSS the world over the past week, events have been organised to celebrate International Women's Day, designated as a day to celebrate achievements and highlight the work we still need to do to promote equality for women in all aspects of life.

It also provides the opportunity for governments to take stock and consider what policies, priorities and legislation may be necessary to make progress and achieve change.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission produced some salutory statistics to show the gains and gaps in achieving equality in Wales.

At school, girls outperform boys and just over half of Welsh students studying in university throughout the UK are women, but when it comes to employment and equality in the workplace, a low proportion of full time women employees in Wales are managers or professionals and the pay gap for women in Wales is 7 per cent in hourly earnings.

Women are more likely to live in low income households than men, mainly because most lone parents are women.

I spoke at the 20th anniversary exhibition launched by Chwarae Teg (Fair Play) on International Women's Day and reflected on their research findings from 2002. This research found that childcare remains a major consideration for women entering the workforce and Chwarae Teg is calling for action to increase the availability and affordability of childcare across Wales.

This was the same evidence which led to the setting up of Chwarae Teg in 1992 when I was appointed as the first Coordinator, with funding from the Government, employers, local authorities and the backing of the Wales TUC.

On Thursday, I was able to say that as Finance Minister I was pleased that the Welsh Government is doubling the funding of Flying Start for the most disadvantaged children and families in Wales, including parenting support and free childcare as provided, for example, at Gibbonsdown Children's Centre and the HUB at Barry YMCA.

We are also protecting the provision of free school breakfasts in primary schools which also provide a safe and nutritious start to the school day with parents able to leave for work or training when their children come to school for breakfast.

This scheme is widely supported by schools and parents and pupils. In response to the cuts in working families tax credits due to be implemented in April, we are doing everything we can to support parents to enable them to work and have access to quality childcare in Wales.

The worst statistics that we were reminded of last week by the Equality and Human Rights Commission related to domestic abuse and violence against women.

The statistics show that one in four women will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives, three quarters of domestic offences are repeat offences, women are twice as likely as men to be victims of sexual violence, or of non-sexual violence by their partner or family and domestic abuse costs the UK economy £2.7 billion every year in lost economic output.

It is for this reason that the Welsh Government funded a number of events and projects across Wales with the theme for International Women's Day in Wales for 2012 being 'Women and Men united to end domestic abuse and violence against women.'

I attended eight events over four days where women and men were coming together to discuss these issues, report on action they were taking – in local government, the NHS, the Police as well as women's organisations and community groups.

This included school pupils devising plays and drama – boys and girls–- about the unacceptability of violence and bullying, conferences and exhibitions about evidence and policy, as well as reports from Ministers about action taken by the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government launched a six-year Strategy in 2010 called 'The Right to be Safe' to tackle all forms of violence against women. This plan covers the whole spectrum of issues including some of the most hidden and damaging forms of violence in our communities.

We heard about some of these in a talk at Art Central in Barry on Saturday afternoon on 'honour killings'.

Because we are committed to addressing the issue of domestic violence, we have safeguarded the funding for the services which are provided by Women's Aid, Atal y Fro and other organisations across Wales, with over £5 million invested in services and an additional £2 million in the capital costs of refuges, one-stop advice services and 'move on' housing provision.

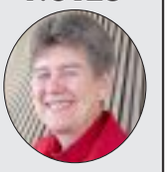
On April 2, I will be launching the Strategic Equality Plan for Wales, which has this issue as a key objective for all public bodies to address as a statutory duty under the 2010 Equality Act.

We have also included the provision for a new Welsh law to address domestic abuse and violence against women with a Bill to be introduced for consultation later this year.

The Bill will support the Welsh Government's intention for public bodies (such as local authorities) to address violence against women and domestic abuse in a way which addresses preventative, protective and supportive measures.

Policies. guidance, support, evidence and a commitment by police, politicians and people to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women is a top priority for the Welsh Government, and the events held over the past few days have helped strengthen our resolve to address this in Wales.

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Pedal power for Fairtrade

RESIDENTS of Dinas Powys responded well to the challenges set during the 'Take a step for Fairtrade Fortnight'.

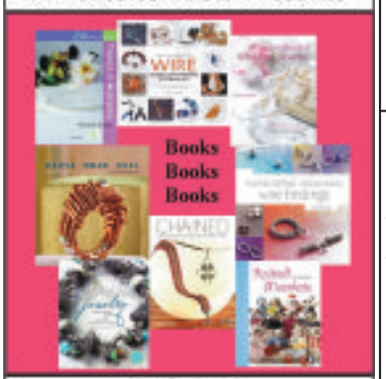
An event in the Lee Hall saw how to make your own smoothie by pedal power, supporters taking the Fairtrade 'Washing Line Challenge' and the opportunity to buy Fairtrade Easter eggs, groceries and crafts.

The theme of the morning was 'Taking a Step' to help improve the lives of millions of farmers.

Murch Junior School pupils had enthusiastically entered into the spirit and submitted footprints that they had decorated and signed pledges.

Pledges include making a Fairtrade puppet, holding a fair to raise money for Fairtrade, and to ask the head teacher to arrange a Fairtrade school assembly.

The Bead Room
At Boxes & Busts Presents



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Vale Council defends house rent increase as it prepares for an £80m modernisation

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A Vale independent councillor said he is dismayed that his amendment to reduce the rise in council house rents was lost.

Coun Gwyn John, who represents Llantwit Major, had hoped to cut the increase by more than half.

However, the Vale Council's head of public housing services has pointed out that if tenants did find themselves in difficulties, council advisors were available to help them, but also that rental income would make a significant contribution to a planned £80 million modernisation of houses.

Coun John told The GEM: "At the Vale of Glamorgan's full council meeting on March 7, I spoke on the 'Housing Revenue Account Report' presented to the council by the Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp.

"I raised the issue of the increase once again of council house rents and the fact that house rents are being increased this year by 5.19 per cent which is above the rate of inflation and punishes lower-paid people.

"I told the council that not everyone has housing benefit. There are many residents struggling to pay their rent who are in full time employment, but are just above the breadline from claiming, and there are others who are too proud to claim."

Coun John said the council puts up rents every year on the guidance of the Welsh Government, but that the guidance was something the council did not have to follow.

He insisted: "It is time that the Vale Council understood that the increase is just too much, especially this year when there are no wage rises for many and jobs are so tight.

"I raised an amendment to cut the increase by over half by increasing rents by just 2.5 per cent."

'DIFFICULT TIMES'

Coun John said his amendment was supported by independent councillors, and some Plaid and Labour councillors, but the Conservatives had voted the amendment down.

Coun Richard Bertin, who represents the Barry Court ward, and seconded the amendment, said: "I was delighted to support Coun Gwyn John with his proposal that the rent increase should be kept as low as possible to help people in difficult times.

"However, it was disappointing to see that the ruling Conservatives did not want to listen and voted against the proposal.

"During tough times we should be helping people who are struggling, but it is obvious the Tories didn't think this was the case with council rents."

The GEM asked the Vale Council whether it believed an 'above the rate of inflation' increase was necessary.

Tony Jaques, the head of public housing services at the Vale Council, said it recognised the financial difficulties many council tenants were facing.

"If any tenant is finding difficulties in paying their rent or any other housing related bill, they can seek advice from one of the council's trained advisors or through voluntary agencies such as the CAB."

Mr Jaques emphasised: "It is more than possible that some tenants not previously eligible for housing benefit support towards their rent, may now fall within the benefit thresholds.

He said the Welsh Government sets its guideline increase each year and that a council is not obliged to follow this guideline, but he added:

"It does have to take full account of the assumptions it has made in terms of the income it requires within its business plan to meet its housing obligations, running costs, and the amount of subsidy it has to pay back to the UK Treasury – on which an assumption is also made by the Welsh Government within its guideline increase."

Mr Jaques also stressed: "The council is shortly to embark on an £80 million council house modernisation programme, which is being supported financially each year by significant rent contributions to the capital cost of the improvement programme.

"For this council, therefore, the increase to Welsh Government guidelines is a necessity."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (KENSON BRIDGE PENMARK) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2012

1. On 15th March 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will come into operation on Saturday 17th March 2012 and shall be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Kenson Bridge, Penmark) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2012.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location From the junction at grid 305197 168690, adjacent to Kenson Cottage, to the western side of Penmark, continuing in a generally northwesterly direction over Kenson Bridge, and on to the junction at grid 304925 168797, to the south of Cliff Farm.

Reason To allow for essential bridge maintenance works to be carried out

Duration From 06.01Hrs on Saturday the 17th March 2012, for a maximum period of 18 months.

Alt. Route The diversion for southeast bound traffic during this closure will be from the un-named road from the junction at grid 304925 168797, to the south of Cliff Farm, in a westerly direction to the junction at grid 303990 168793, then in a southwesterly direction through the village Llancadle, and on to the junction with the B4265 at grid 303246 167780, then continuing in a generally easterly direction along the B4265, to the junction at grid 305337 168187, turn left at this junction, and continue along this road to the junction at grid 305396 168330 and turn left again, continue along this road known as Kenson Hill, to the junction at grid 305197 168690, adjacent to Kenson Cottage, and visa-versa.

Signing: Advance signing of this closure will be in place at Pancross, at the Llancadle junction at grid 303990 168793, and on the B4265 at both access roads to Penmark.

NB: Access to the field accesses from this road will be maintained from one end of the closure or the other during the time of these works.

Dated this 15th day of March 2012.

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

Jane Hutt AM with Atlantic College students at the Senedd.

International students are welcomed at the Senedd

ATLANTIC College students from across the world visited the Senedd and met Vale AM and Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, to discuss the way the democracy works in Wales.

Vale plan open to the public

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on the Deposit Local Development Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan.

The LDP – which once adopted, governs how land in the Vale is used up to 2026 – contains local planning policies and makes provision for a number of land uses, including housing, employment, retail, recreation, transport, tourism, minerals, waste and community uses.

The public consultation will run until Monday, April 2.

Documents can be viewed at the council's main offices and libraries, or on the council's website.

Public exhibitions continue at Llantwit Major Town Hall on Saturday, March 24 (10am-1pm) and the Dock Office, Barry, normal office hours throughout the six-week public consultation period and on Saturday, March 17 (10am-1pm).

For more information, contact the LDP team on 01446 700111 or email LDP@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Nurse lands top regional accolade

LLANDOUGH clinical nurse specialist Helen Ludlow landed the top regional prize in the Crohn's and Colitis UK inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) nursing awards 2012.

Helen, who works in the Department of Gastroenterology at University Hospital Llandough, was recognised for her hard work by Crohn's and Colitis UK, leading IBD patients' charity.

Overall winner, Joy Mason, worked at Colchester General Hospital, while the other specialist nurses singled out were based in Hastings, Luton and Dunstable and Glasgow.

Many are based in district general hospitals, demonstrating the high quality of care that IBD specialist nurses are providing to patients throughout the UK.

They were nominated by their patients, and are all members of Crohn's and Colitis UK.

Chief Nursing Officer Dame Christine Beasley said of the winners: "I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to all the winners of the national Crohn's and Colitis UK IBD Nursing Awards 2012.

"Your determined work has provided much-needed stability and support to sufferers of IBD, who face much uncertainty and worry in managing their condition.

"Working at the centre of IBD care, your clinical expertise and your compassion have profoundly increased the quality of life and well-being of patients."

A record 435 patient nominations for 183 specialist IBD nurses led to an in-depth and suitably painstaking recognition of the awards' importance.

Joy Mason was presented with the Crohn's and Colitis UK training bursary worth £1,000 at the Academy of Medical Sciences in London on March 1.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Lent lunches

A REMINDER that the Lent lunches are being held again this year, starting next Thursday, and people attending the lunches in Llancarfan will (if they wish) be given a 'tour/explanation' of the paintings of the church.

This year, the lunches are on a Thursday, and the dates are as follows:

March 15, Penmark ladies in their Church Hall.

March 22, Llantrithyd ladies, lunch to be held in Llancarfan Village Hall.

March 29, Llancarfan ladies' lunch to be held in Llancarfan Village Hall.

As usual, they will be held from 12 noon to 2 pm, and all proceeds will go to charity. There are no tickets and payment will be made on arrival at the door.

Llancarfan show

THE Llancarfan Village Show Committee is very sorry to announce that there will not be a show this year, because of all the other events taking place during July and August.

However, they fully intend that there will be a show in 2013 and hope that everybody will support that show as they have in previous years.

PACT meetings

WENVOE coffee and chat meeting, March 19 at the Walston Castle Pub, Wenvoe, at 11am.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, March 20 at Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, Windsor Public House, March 21 at 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT, 7pm on March 22 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, 2.30pm on April 4 at the residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

BUTTRILLS PACT, 6.30pm on April 5 at The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library.

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Man in court over £26,000 benefits claim

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AN Ogmore-by-Sea ex-businessman received benefits of almost £26,000 from the Department of Work and Pensions that he was not entitled to, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

David Vale-Simmonds (67), a man with no previous convictions, of Marine Walk, had been found guilty of two charges of failing to notify a change of circumstances.

After being remanded in the cells for three hours, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, and made subject to two years' supervision order.

He was also ordered to observe a three-month curfew from 8pm to 7am and to be electronically tagged.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said that he believed the defendant was "thoroughly dishonest".

He said that when he gave evidence during his trial, he came out with "a lot of nonsense".

He pointed out that Vale-Simmonds had bought a brand new Jeep and an expensive dog.

The jury, said the judge, had seen through Vale-Simmond's bluff, bluster and deceit.

He added: "£25,000 of law-abiding tax payers' money was paid to you.

"You will have to face up to the fact that you have been convicted of serious offences and you have lost your good character."

Prosecutor Hoa Diel said that Vale-Simmonds had been receiving benefits, but had failed to notify a change of circumstances.

It turned out he was in receipt of two private pensions and in addition, had capital by way of a divorce settlement. He estimated that there had been an overpayment to Vale-Simmonds of £25,951.

His barrister, Heath Edwards, said his client had been suffering depression. In the past, he said, he had led a positive and constructive, though difficult, life.

He added: "When he fell into this offending, he was at a low ebb. He had lost his business, his home and his family.

"When the divorce settlement came through, he should have been straight with the Department of Work and Pensions.

"Apart from buying some frivolous items, the money went to pay a debt, and he didn't live a life of significant luxury."

Initially, said Mr Edwards, the granting of state benefits had been legitimate. Sadly, he failed to inform the authorities of changes.

"He feels he has a duty to repay all the money he unlawfully obtained."

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'ONE PUNCH' BROKE BARRY MAN'S JAW' – Crown Court told

A SINGLE punch delivered at a party in Barry resulted in the victim suffering a broken jaw and being hospitalised for two nights, Cardiff Crown Court has heard .

Ben White (24) of Pendoylan Close, Barry, who was jailed for 15 months, pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Luke Mills.

Prosecutor Roger Griffiths said that on May 27, Mr Mills went to a party at Laugharne Court, Barry.

While talking to White, a dispute developed and White punched Mr Mills one blow to the face.

He was taken to the University Hospital of Wales and operated upon for a fracture of the lower jaw.

A number of plates were inserted and a wisdom tooth had to be removed.

Since then, said Mr Griffiths, he had suffered numbness of the lower lip.

A court heard that White had previous convictions for assault involving punching a man four times in the face, and causing actual bodily harm by kicking a man, for which he received nine months in a young offender institution.

His counsel, Adam Sharpe, said: "There was but a single punch, and to his credit White pleaded guilty on the day of the trial.

"The aggravating feature was the seriousness of the injury. He had arrived at the party to meet a girlfriend and became concerned because he believed Mr Mills was being flirtatious.

"The blow was as a result of that, and there was no premeditation.

"He had consumed alcohol and had a difficult home life. He left school without any qualifications or training, and is realistic about what the sentence will be.

"Take into account his immaturity, the offence has taught him a lesson."

Judge John Curran said: "You punched a man heavily in the face with sufficient force to cause his jaw to be broken. He underwent an operation, was detained for two nights and sustained a great deal of pain.

"This particular offence was aggravated by the fact that you had been drinking. I bear in mind everything urged on your behalf."

AJ SICLUNA

Eisteddfod fundraiser

AN Eisteddfod fundraising event, organised by Quest Hair Salon, will include a spicy curry evening on Wednesday, April 18 (7.30pm) at Jaipur Indian Restaurant, East Street, Llantwit Major.

Choice of menu, £16 per person; tickets and further information from Jackie or Melissa at Quest, East Street, Llantwit Major. Call 01446 793563 or call in during opening times.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Why it is so vital the NHS in UK (and Wales) is modernised

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

THE Health and Social Care Bill has received lots of publicity in recent weeks with many critical of the reforms being proposed.

The reforms that relate to the rest of the UK are in conjunction with an increase in funding by £12.5 billion by 2014.

This will not be the case in Wales. As a devolved matter, the Welsh Government will be cutting the Welsh health budget by £534 million in real terms over the coming years.

This is the biggest year-on-year cut to the health budget in modern history. A staggering cut of £534m or 8.4 per cent will be the cut between 2011-12 and 2014-15.

The King's Fund and Wales Audit Office have confirmed that the Welsh NHS faces the toughest funding settlement of all the UK's health services.

What this means to the people of Wales is that more patients are waiting for treatment here than in England and Scotland – and they are waiting for longer periods.

The number of patients waiting to start treatment in Wales rose by 17 per cent over the year (StatsWales, correct as at February 22, 2012). The number of patients waiting longer than 36 weeks for treatment has doubled in a year to 7,699.

The number of patients waiting to start treatment in Wales has risen by 45 per cent since the General Election in 2010.

Patients waiting longer than 36 weeks to start treatment in Wales has more than doubled over the year. The Welsh Government's target is for no patients to wait longer than 36 weeks from referral to treatment.

Cancer treatment and hospital infection levels are also vastly different between Wales and England. Patients are currently five times more likely to get cancer drugs in England than in Wales, and patients in Wales are twice as likely to get an infection from hospital visits than those in England.

In the House of Commons last week, when questioned, the Prime Minister used the figures noted above to demonstrate what happens if resources and money are used to improve and change the NHS to make sure that there is a proper chance for people to get the treatments they need.

Improvements and investment in the NHS will lead to shorter waiting lists, and reduced waiting times between appointment and treatment stages. Nothing in the UK Government's reforms undermines the NHS's founding principles – a health service, free to all, funded from general taxation, based on need and not ability to pay.

I urge the Welsh Government to increase investment in the NHS in Wales and not to make cuts. It's vital for the NHS across the UK as a whole to modernize – and I certainly do not want to see people in the Vale and across Wales suffer due to lack of investment and reform.

Spending alone is not the solution – it must be matched with modernisation.

FOLLOW THE (Vale) LEADER

Clamping down on dog fouling owners

by Coun **GORDON KEMP** Leader of the Vale Council

IT'S often said that the dog is 'man's best friend' – and that may be so, but not when we are faced with dog 'mess'!

When this happens, our whole environment suffers. Pavements are dirty, sports pitches need to be cleaned before they are used, but more importantly, everyone's health is put at risk, particularly children's.

When surveys are carried out on environmental issues, it is very often the issue of dog fouling, together with litter, that is mentioned most frequently.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has tried to, and will continue to, educate dog owners to be responsible.

Signs have been erected, leaflets issued and bags provided, working on the basis that prevention is better than cure.

This approach has had some success. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and clear up after their pets.

Unfortunately, there is still a persistent minority that continues to make life unpleasant for everyone else.

The council will now be taking a far tougher line with those who allow their dogs to foul without clearing up after them.

It is proposed to enter into a contract with a company that will undertake the enforcement, not just in respect of dog fouling, but also for litter. They will issue fixed penalty notices of £75 to offenders.

The company provides the service for Blaenau Gwent Council, where during their first three months they issued some 600 fixed penalty notices.

Another issue that is causing problems in the Vale is that of illegal parking.

The problem has arisen from the decision of the police to withdraw their traffic wardens and the number of irresponsible drivers who insist on parking in a way that causes difficulties for everyone else.

A similar situation exists in Bridgend, and the Vale is therefore proposing to collaborate with Bridgend in providing a replacement service.

In order to do this, it is necessary to follow the very strict process laid down by the Welsh Government.

This is under way and a joint service will be created to tackle the problem.

Welfare Reform Bill welcomed

THE Government's Welfare Reform Bill has been welcomed by Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

He commented: "Under the reforms, the benefit payments that a household on out-of-work benefits will be capped at £26,000 per year, equivalent to £35,000 gross so that work always pays. Under the previous system, households were able to receive up to £104,000 per year in housing benefit alone."

Rob's quest is to lose shedloads of pounds!

IN October last year, Rob Phillips opened his first Slimming World group at the Copthorne Hotel and within five months says he helped members lose more than 1,000 lbs!

He is now taking over the two groups in Cowbridge. Rob first joined Slimming World seven years ago after he went along to his local group to support his friend Pearl.

He discovered he weighed 19 stone, but went on to lose five stone and also kept the weight off.

To find out more about Rob's groups in Cowbridge, contact him on 07708 941279.

Amelia is through, too!

AS proud parents, we were delighted to see your report of our daughter Amelia's success in the Rotary Young Chef Final (The GEM, March 8).

However, as runner-up she, too, goes through to the regional final on the March 17 in Monmouth. We would like to thank Mr Andrew Huddart of Huddarts Restaurant for his help and advice to Amelia in preparing for the next round, as well as the encouragement of all at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Go MeMe!

Alex and Felicity Glanville, Ewenny.

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MONDAY

Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall,
Junction of Court Road
& Llanover Street
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose - 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community
Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist
Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.45pm
Market Street
Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist
Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annamarie - 01446
736534

Llantwit Major
4.45 & 6.45pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium
Centre, Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446
736534

Cardiff - 6.00pm
All Welcome
8.00pm MEN ONLY
Rob - 07708 941279
Copthorne Hotel,
Culverhouse Cross,
Cardiff

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge
Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park
Community Centre,
Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm
The Cabin by swimming
pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge - 7.30pm
Cowbridge
Comprehensive
Aberthin Road
Rob - 07708 941279

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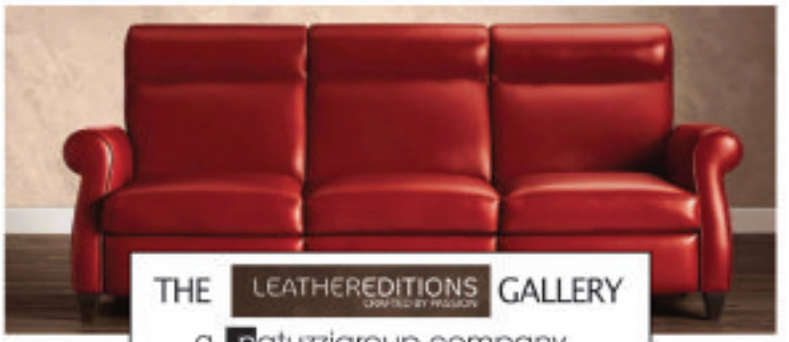

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Out and About with The GEM

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, March 11 at 2pm, 'Parks Walks', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car park.

Tuesday, March 13 at 1.30pm, 'Views Across the Vale', starting at the car park, Walston Castle, Wenvoe.

Lib Dem advice

WELSH Lib Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, March 16 in Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend from 2pm to 3pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Barry surgery

COUNS Charles, Hampton and Williams of Illtyd ward will be holding a surgery on March 17 at the Cwm Talwg Community Centre between 10am-12 pm. No appointments necessary.

Cowbridge surgery

COUNCILLORS Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie, Vale Council Cowbridge ward members, will be holding a surgery on Saturday March 17 from 11am to 12.30pm in the Robing Room of Cowbridge Town Hall. Appointments are not necessary.

Mothering Sunday

ALL SAINT'S Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a special Mothering Sunday service this Sunday, March 18 at 10am.

There will be a children's activity session plus creche facilities for under-3s. Flowers are presented to all the ladies and refreshments served after the service. All welcome.

Councillors' surgery

COURT ward councillor Richard Bertin and the Court First Independent team will be holding a surgery with free coffee and Welsh cake at the Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry on Saturday March 17 from 12 noon-1pm. No appointment is necessary. All are welcome to attend.

Art society

ON March 22, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist Jane Gagg, who will lead a practical painting session.

Members are asked to bring along a photo or drawing of a church or old building, pens and watercolours. Jane has been a regular visitor to the society for many.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm– 9pm) and visitors are welcome. For further details, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com

.Coalition AGM

BRIDGEND Coalition Against Racism holds its 12th annual general meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 22 when the guest speakers are Rez Jamal and Darren Ralph from the Valleys Regional Equalities Council (VALREC).

It will be held at Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ. All are welcome.

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next presentation is *The Help* (cert. 12A) which will be shown on Thursday March 22 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

A young aspiring writer returns to the Mississippi, determined to write about the experiences of the African American maids who work for the local, prominent, white families at a time when the Civil Rights movement is growing in the 1960s.

Despite difficulties, many black women are soon coming forward to tell their stories, leading to tensions between the two communities.

Octavia Spencer won a BAFTA and an Oscar recently as the 'best actress in a supporting role'.

This is a long film (146 mins) finishing after 10.15pm, so tere will be a longer interval than usual.

History 'tasters'

FRIENDS of Barry History invite the public to the Philip Jhn Room at the Barry Library on Thursday, March 22 from 6pm-7.30pm for a short series of brief (20 minutes each) 'taster talks'.

Speakers are Aldon Grisdale, 'Barry, Before the Docks'; Alun Robertson, 'World War One and Barry'; John Chucas, 'The Bells and Smells of Barry', and Glenn Booker, 'The Americans in Barry in World War Two'.

Iolo talk

JIM JONES, the Archdruid of Wales, will give a talk in Dinas Powys about the life and times of Iolo Morgannwg, on Friday March 23.

Iolo Morgannwg, from Flemingstone in the Vale, was a poet, stonemason and literary fraudster, who founded the Gorsedd of Bards.

The talk takes place in Dinas Powys Parish Hall at 7.30pm. It will be in English and will raise funds for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow later this year.

Contact Rosanne Reeves or Janie Jones on 029 20512896; janieguy2986@yahoo.co.uk.

Cadoc surgery

CADOC ward councillors Fred Johnson, Anne Moore and Neil Moore will hold a surgery at tCadoxton Moors Community Centre, Barry, on March 24 between 10.30am and 11.30am. No appointments necessary.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D713.

- **£2,000:** 124852.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £6,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 6 5 4 2 0 5 , 110425, 617685, 104042, 890309, 705773, 731252, 247128, 497285, 700762, 438661, 599983, 411855, 595015, 351921, 399467, 860253, 719803, 300776, 382511.
- **£5:** 771989, 937664, 214128, 265487, 536203, 302248, 594155, 858185, 442420, 480774, 860279, 482403, 661024, 615245, 677451, 608013, 538189, 734196, 502500, 738539, 159540, 456994, 203082, 405609, 632485, 672126, 673878, 419893, 693145, 829337, 310794, 752707, 675154, 619901, 833869, 153200, 139722, 802574, 469498, 313850, 678852, 638355, 377461, 884909, 551710, 528064, 172327, 254129, 655736, 199556, 466995, 519167, 500700, 552197, 487140, 258028, 819284, 879120, 678802, 621726.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Art and recovery

WELSH artists are contributing to a unique exhibition at the Travellers Gallery, Barry.

The Road to Recovery exhibition is a sequel to the Dibyniaeth Addiction exhibition recently held at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.

It has works by Carwyn Evans, Kathy Williams, Karen Jones, Aneurin Owen, and Dewi Tudur. All represent the journey from addiction to recovery, and proceeds from the sale of artworks will be shared between MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan and the Stafell Fyw Caerdydd/ Living Room Cardiff Project.

WOMEN'S ART GOES ON DISPLAY

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM is pictured (second right) with organisers of the exhibition.

BACKED by Welsh Government funding funding the Women's Art Association and Wales Assembly of Women have organised an exhibition of Women's Art to celebrate International Women's Day at Art Central in Barry.

They also organised a talk last Saturday, by Jo Payne about honour killings, which brought to the fore the extent of violence against women in this country and across the world.

NEARLY NEW SALE

A NEARLY new sale will be held on Saturday, March 24 between 10am-11.30am at Llantwit Major Rugby Club, organised by Cylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr.

There will be baby and children's clothes, equipment, toys, maternity wear at bargain prices.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Artist's talk

ARTCENTRAL Friends will host an event on March 29 at the Art Central Gallery, King Square, Barry, when Welsh artist Sue Williams will give an illustrated talk on her work at 7.30pm.

The talk is free to Art Central Friends members and £2.50 to non-members.

Activate fayre

PENARTH Youth Action (PYA) in partnership with Penarth Town Council, are planning an open day fayre for youth organisations in the Penarth area.

Activate aims to raise awareness of the opportunities available for young people aged 11-19 on April 13 at the Paget Rooms.

Contact Penarth Youth Action, penarthyouthaction@hotmail.co.uk, or telephone 02920 701254 for details.

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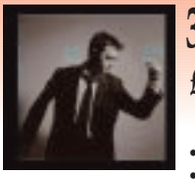
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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IS KEEPING LOCAL ECONOMY ON THE MOVE

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE days when industrial estates were made up of factories or distribution outlets – and, therefore, of little interest to the general public – are long gone now.

That is particularly true of the Bridgend Industrial Estate, where the wide variety of businesses plying their trade cover almost every sector you could imagine.

In fact, it is almost misleading to call it one estate. It is really a series of estates, managed by different estate managers, spread out over a huge area.

Drive all around the estate, following the network of link roads, and you could easily notch up about five miles.

On that drive around the estate, you will find the motor sector well represented, with three main dealers, tyre specialists and body repair shops.

When it comes to your home or garden, the choice is vast, from furniture to tiling, from building materials to bedrooms, and from insulating material to turf for your lawn.

There are high-tech companies such as Logica and Spectrum, and companies working in the education sector.

Indeed, Bridgend College has its own technology centre on the estate.

There are businesses based on health and fitness, and a nursery for working parents. There is even a fancy dress supplier tucked away down one road.

Some branches of government have made their home there, with the NHS Local Health Board based on the estate.

As you move to the administrative centre, the economic importance of the estate is acknowledged by the presence of several high street banks, and a post office, cafe, newsagent, and a laundry.

There is also, at each end of the estate, a pub for those important business lunches.

The manufacturing sector has taken one or two hits due to the economic downturn, and Bridgend Creamery fell victim to the volatile market for milk products.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate owes its existence to the war effort, being built on land vacated when the massive Royal Ordnance factory (ROF) was decommissioned after the Second World War.

The facts and figures of the estate are surprising, as it boasts an estimated 3,000,000 sq ft of commercial space, on an area of 300 acres. There is traditional factory space, distribution centres, and high-quality office developments.

The estate certainly benefited from the construction of the M4, and companies still find its good transport links make it a competitive place to do business.

Customers also find it an easy place to reach, and every company on the estate has plenty of parking to make it an easy visit.

A long-time tenant has been Solar Sunshades, a company that manufactures 80 per cent of its window blinds, providing employment for 23 local people.

Huw Davies told The GEM: "We have operated successfully from the estate for so long because of the proximity of the motorway, meaning that we can service customers from west Wales to across the Severn Bridge.

"Also, anyone visiting our showroom finds the easy parking a big plus factor."

Paul Ezard, of Town and Country Bedrooms, is a relative newcomer to the estate, and has just celebrated his first year.

Town and Country is, of course, a well-established business in the area, but the bedroom store was a new venture, and Paul feels that the estate has proved to be an excellent place to show off the vast product range that he offers.

Denis Theodore, of Theodore Reclamation, a family business that has been trading on the estate for 20 years, said that he had been through good times and hard times.

He said: "It's not easy now but our figures are staying good. Customers benefit because we have to keep the prices low to keep their business."

In contrast, NFU Mutual has just moved on to the estate, after outgrowing their two branch offices in Cowbridge and Laleston.

David Harris said: "We've only been open a short while, but our customers are delighted by the ease of access and the good parking. They are also impressed with our new premises.

"Some have commented that they are taking the opportunity to pick up items from other businesses on the estate."

The Central Park Estate is owned by Robert Hitchins of Gloucester, and is jointly marketed by Cooke and Arkwright, and Jones, Lang, LaSalle.

Jeremy Symons of Cooke and Arkwright was very positive about the future of the estate.

He said: "We have recently secured a new tenant on the estate, Edmundson Electrical, and Biotec, which is already a tenant, has taken a further two units.

"In fact, Robert Hitchins has been so pleased with the take up that it is planning to construct more units."

He added that the estate was well placed to take advantage of the Welsh Government's drive to bring more high-tech 'life science' companies to Wales.

ABOVE: A site map to help visitors find their way around the estate.

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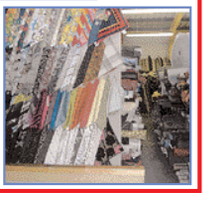

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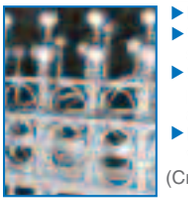

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

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Town and Country also supplies a choice of high-quality bedroom carpets to complement the beautiful new furniture – and an excellent range of semi-fitted wardrobes.

Also stocked is free-standing bedroom furniture from the prestigious Kingstown brand, as well as fitted home office furniture.

Please contact us for your free, computer-aided consultation.

Town & Country Bedrooms are at Unit 1, North Point, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrail Estate, CF31 3RX, and can also be contacted on 01656 657526.

ABOVE:
FRF Bridgend has recently won a 'dealer of the year' award.

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FRF Bridgend

FRF Bridgend recently triumphed in a year-long dealer recognition scheme, operated by Chevrolet, designed to reward the achievements of top dealers in the UK via a number of sales and aftersales measures.

These include staff training certification, innovative marketing activity, mystery shop results and parts and accessories purchases.

Chevrolet UK managing director, Mark Terry, said: "The Dealer of the Year award is a prestigious accolade, and it shows exactly how much effort the team at FRF in Bridgend have made with engaging in the Chevrolet brand and raising awareness in the area."

FRF is a large independent family-run motor group whose two sites in Swansea and Bridgend offer multiple new car franchises, as well as a wide selection of used cars.

Servicing and MOT testing is available at both sites, alongside a vast stock of parts and accessories.

FRF Bridgend has been promoting the Chevrolet brand to the local area since 2009.

The Chevrolet Dealer of the Year programme was set up in 2009 to recognise the top performing dealers in the UK.

SEE OUR ADVERT ON PAGE 33.

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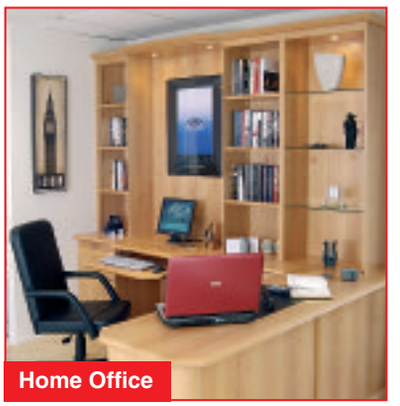

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

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MEET THE ADVERTISERS

ABOVE: Town and Country.

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ABOVE: Solar Sunshades

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DLT Training Ltd have been carrying out freight logistics, mechanical handling, construction plant operation and health and safety training since 1992, and have developed an ever-growing reputation for providing quality training and an excellent all-round service to customers.

DLT Training Ltd originated from the British Road Services Training centre based in Bridgend, and have a wealth of more than 40 years of experience in all aspects of road transport, warehousing and distribution, construction plant and health and safety training.

DLT have been carrying out training for many blue chip companies and local authorities in Wales and across the UK.

Training is provided for both the private and public sector.

Many private individuals have enhanced their employment prospects by attending accredited training courses at DLT.

For more information, telephone 01656 656382,

ABOVE: Denis and Carole Theodore.

Theodore Sons & Daughters...

DENIS THEODORE'S first salvage job was nearly 50 years ago.

During that time, he has also been involved extensively in selling caravans and letting caravan plots.

Now, he is concentrating on his reclamation business with his eldest son and wife, Carole.

Denis said: "We are a family able to deal with you caringly. Not the largest yard, but possibly the best range of stock. Oak fireplace beams, chimney pots, Welsh cottage flagstones, slate slabs, church pews, bricks, finials, ridges, slates, tiles, fireplaces, pine doors, coloured sanitary ware, quarry tiles, sleepers and all sizes of wood.

"We are a reliable source of a materials that are not readily available nowadays, but are in high demand to maintain the character of the more traditional projects which people need to restore or undertake."

For more information call 01656 648936.

NFU Mutual relocate to Bridgend Business Centre

Julian Kelly and David Harris ,Local NFU Group Secretaries and agents for NFU Mutual are one of the most recent newcomers to Bridgend Industrial Estate when they occupied **Unit 1A, Morien House at the Bridgend Business Centre in February.**

The move to the new premises enables all staff from the previous Laleston and Cowbridge Offices to work within modern single ground floor premises, with new facilities including customer interview rooms and conference room. The agency now proudly boasts five car parking spaces outside the front door of the office purely dedicated to visiting customers.

The decision to relocate the two old offices into a new single site was not taken lightly, but the main driving factor to move was the growth in the business over the last 5 years had meant that we had virtually outgrown our two existing premises.

The agents are acutely aware that the closing of the Cowbridge Office in particular may concern some existing customers, but they believe that new telephony systems, extended opening hours and ease of visiting the new office will more than compensate in terms of customer service.

Our Agency's ability to retain existing customers still remains paramount in our objectives each year. This coupled with the desire of the agents and the company to grow the business into the commercial insurance sector means that the Bridgend Business Centre is a perfect venue for us.

The office is well placed to cover the whole of the agency's trading area from Cardiff in the East to Swansea Valley in the West.

Many of our core agricultural customers are used to visiting the estate to make purchases from agricultural merchants, and others who have visited for the first time have expressed how easy it is to park and also benefit from the services offered by the banks, Post Office, and other businesses within the quadrant.

"We remain committed to providing level of customers service unparalleled in the insurance industry", said local agent Dave Harris. "We appreciate that none of us like change, and we constantly review processes and listen to customers."

An example of this review process is that for the past 12 months or so in the old offices, the only way in which we could deal with the volume of incoming calls was to introduce a "Press 1" call select system, which our customers found infuriating and started comparing us with other insurers.

However, now that we have all staff working in a single premise has meant we have been able to revert to all calls being answered directly by one of the team.

We look forward to welcoming your telephone call or personal visit!

OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL 4-7pm All Welcome!

Office Opening Hours are 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday
(Out of hours customer support centre 5pm - 8pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 9am - 12.30pm)
Unit 1A, Morien House, Bridgend Business Centre CF31 3SH
Telephone *numbers have remained unchanged* 01656 653111 or 01446 772057
Email: bridgend_agency@nfumutual.co.uk www.nfumutual.co.uk/bridgend

NFU Mutual

Murder thriller ticks all the right boxes

HAVING built up a resume as the king of hip, alternative cinema with the likes of *The Grifters* and *The Sure Thing,* John Cusack's recent film choices have been anything but.

Romantic comedies and blockbusters have been the order of the day, but his latest film sees him return to more varied ground in *The Raven.*

Cusack plays Edgar Allen Poe, whose stories come to life in the form of grisly murders being investigated by Detective Fields (Luke Evans); but when the person responsible kidnaps his intended wife-to-be Emily (Alice Eve) he faces a race against time to try and stop the murderer before Emily becomes another victim...

While the life and works of Edgar Allen Poe are dramatic enough to make solid cinematic fodder, *The Raven's* central conceit is a clever one that while cleaving slightly from other sources (most notably *Se7en*) makes for a refreshing change in the horror genre; and in execution it doesn't make too many missteps, the end result a solid watch that ticks all the right boxes.

Using the more gruesome of Poe's stories as the basis for a horror film works well, the murders having the level of gore and gruesomeness that horror fans will relish (best avoid that pre-cinema pizza) but married to a narrative that will keep you guessing as to whom the murderer may be, and just what his motives are.

The race against time aspect may be hackneyed but injects a level of pace into proceedings that means the film never overly slows up and keeps you intrigued throughout.

John Cusack's lead performance is a key ingredient to the film's success, the character a perfect fit for Cusack's cool charisma, playing Poe as beguiling and charming poet.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

While the early parts see Cusack playing light and for laughs, as the film progresses and things get darker, Cusack's turn develops along with it, the always watchable actor delivering one of his most impressive recent turns.

Alongside him, Luke Evans does his burgeoning reputation no harm at all with a solid turn as the inspector investigating the murders; Alice Eve does a decent woman in peril, while the likes of Brendan Gleeson and Kevin McNally put meat on characters made from the barest of bones.

In the director's chair, James McTeigue brings a gothic sensibility to proceedings, with more than a hint of Tim Burton, while curtailing his more OTT excesses (the only concession being slo-mo bullet shot that is slightly excessive).

He adds a sheen of style to the film, lensing it with a brooding menace that gives the film a foreboding atmosphere that works very well, *The Raven* being McTeigue's most mature and restrained work yet.

Where the film does fall down is its use of Poe in such a film; those wanting some historical background on the writer will feel short changed by the film's insistence on playing as a straight-ahead horror, while the period feel is occasionally dashed by some poor dialogue that fails to ring true (the mayor "wants results on this case" hardly the most authentic of period phrases).

However, overall this is a satisfactorily entertaining film that may lack in history but delivers in terms of suspense and drama; this *Raven* certainly does fly high.

VERDICT: An enjoyable and dramatic offering that adds some class to the schlock factor, *The Raven* is a watchable piece of work from director James McTeigue; solid turns from the likes of John Cusack merely add to the gravitas on show in this gothic horror. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Se7en* (1995), *Sleepy Hollow* (2000).

Royal walk for Ty Hafan!

TY HAFAN will launch its 'Tiaras and Pyjamas' themed Midnight Sleep Walk this year, to coincide with the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Friday, May 4, starting from the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff at midnight.

Registration is now open at www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or telephone the events team on 02920 672065 to secure your place.

RONDEL HOUSE OFFICIALLY REOPENED AFTER ITS REFIT

ABOVE, left to right: Lance Carver, head of adult services and locality manager; Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council; Carol Watts, day centre manager; Angela Medina, team manager; Coun Dorothy Turner, cabinet member for health and social care; Carys Lord, head of business management and innovation and Phil Evans, director of social services.

ON February 27, Vale Council Leader Gordon Kemp officially cut the ribbon at the official re-opening of the Rondel House day service.

Rondel House in Barry was built in the 1970s and has been providing day services for older adults for many years, including socialisation and traditional day activities.

The day centre has recently undergone extensive refurbishment as part of a programme to modernise social care day services across the Vale.

The building has been redecorated throughout, the toilets have been refurbished and there is a new specialist bathing area to enable physically disabled people to have an assisted bath.

The building has also been modified to increase staffing levels, so that it can provide services for people who have more complex needs including significant physical disability, and higher health care needs including dementia.

Coun Dorothy Turner, cabinet member for social and care services, said: "At a time of considerable financial constraints, I am delighted that the council is able to enhance the support it can provide to help older people in the Vale during periods when they become especially vulnerable."

Mary Hodge, one of those who attends the centre, said:"On behalf of the service users at Rondel House, I would like to thank everyone involved in making this day centre such a pleasurable place to come to."

New ramp for beach at Ogmore

OGMORE-BY-SEA is to get a new slipway ramp to provide improved beach access for emergency services and Penybont Surf Life Saving Club during sea rescues.

It will also give improved access to the beach for all users including disabled visitors and families with pushchairs.

Penybont Surf Life Saving Club has contracted the Vale Council's highways team to design and build the slipway this spring.

Clairvoyants

Cadoxton Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, Barry, is holding a clairvoyant special evening on March 16 with Bernie Scott from Bristol at 6.30pm, admission £3. All proceeds go towards renovating the church.

Thinking of

A career change?

Gaining confidence?

Learning new skills?

Switch on to Volunteering

Visit the

Vale Volunteer Bureau
34 Holton Road, Barry.
CF63 4HD.

Phone: **01446 421782**
Email: info@vvb.org.uk
www.info@vvb.org.uk

Volunteering with the elderly

DO you have some spare time to assist the elderly? Sometimes an older person may not see a friendly face from one week to the next, putting them into social isolation.

Are you able to have a friendly conversation and sit with them for an hour or two each week?

If you would like more interaction, perhaps you could support and encourage older people to become more involved in activities and increase their confidence by escorting them to the shops and visiting groups.

We are also looking for volunteers to work with older people in sheltered and care home settings to enhance their computing skills. You would assist in the use of skype, email, social interactive sites, websites and other specified programmes and software.

If you enjoy meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds, are interested in people, are caring and compassionate, you might like to assist with one of the above voluntary opportunities.

In return, the organisations will provide full training, help you to develop new skills and reimburse your travel expenses.

Details of these and hundreds of other volunteering opportunities can be found at the Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry.

Opening hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Tel: ***01446 421782*** *or email:* ***info@vvb.org.uk for more information.***

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00164/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition of stone wall adjacent to highway in association with approved planning application 2011/00935/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad:	Brooklyn, Piccadilly, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanblethian

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00190/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Revised layout for proposed non food retail building (approximately 628m2 gross external area) to avoid Welsh Water sewer easement. Minor revision to planning permission 2011/00423/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad:	R. S. Bird Ltd., Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations, 1999

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as Local Planning Authority, has determined the following application(s), having taken into account the information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment accompanying the application(s):

Application No.:/ Rhif y cais:	2009/00946/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig	Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry
Decision:	Approved 2 March, 2012 (Documents relating to this application may be inspected free of charge at: The Planning Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT during normal office hours).

Dated: 15 March, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 15 March, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri.
CF63 4RT

Local MP claims Vale of Glamorgan is hard done by on major grant support

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale of Glamorgan is the poor relation when it comes to major block grants handed out by the Welsh Government, the local MP has claimed.

Alun Cairns says he has called on the Welsh Government to examine its strategy so that it delivers a "more level playing field" to the Vale – and all authorities in Wales.

Figures showed that the amount spent per person in the Vale for the total of the 'revenue support grant', 'the specific grant allocation' and the 'capital financing grant' in 2010-11 was £77 per person less than Cardiff, £188 less than Bridgend and a whopping £425 less than Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The total of the three grants for the Vale was £201,045,000 and with a population of 124,976 it works out at £1,609 for each person.

Rhondda Cynon Taf, on the other hand, received a total of £494,613,000 for 2010-11. With a population of 234,309, it means that the amount per person worked out at £2,111.

In each of the preceding four years before 2010-11, Rhondda Cynon Taf received more per person than the Vale – £373, £387, £390 and £93.

Rhondda Cynon Taf does have areas of deprivation, but so does the Vale – particularly in Barry.

The figures were released by the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, following research in the House of Commons library.

Mr Cairns said he was appalled at the facts and revealed he had written to Jane Hutt AM, in her capacity as Assembly Finance Minister, asking her to review local government funding.

He claimed it showed that the Vale is losing out by millions of pounds a year to other local authorities across Wales.

He said: "I'm really concerned that the Vale is missing out on the amount assigned per person from the funding provided by the Welsh Government.

"It is ridiculous that the Vale authority received £77 less per person than Cardiff, £188 less than Bridgend and a massive £425 less than Rhondda Cynon Taf – all of which are authorities bordering the Vale.

"The costs are the same to build a school, resurface a road or to employ a teacher across Wales. Enough is enough.

"The Vale is missing out, and – as has been pointed out in the past – the Welsh Government has skewed funding against areas such as the Vale, Pembrokeshire, Monmouth and Powys.

"I have written to the Assembly's Finance Minister asking her to review local government funding, and I would call on people to voice any concerns they have to the Finance Minister and Local Government Minister.

"In credit to the Vale Council, recent audits have highlighted its efficiency but that is not an excuse for the Welsh Government to send money to their heartlands. As one of the financial engine rooms of Wales, the Vale needs to be protected.

"Some parts of the Vale share similar deprivation levels as other areas of Wales. Indeed, some wards in Barry are among the most deprived in Wales.

"I do hope that the Welsh Government will look again at their strategy for local government funding to make sure that it's a more level playing field for the Vale, and for all local authorities in Wales."

The GEM asked the Welsh Government why the Vale received significantly less per person than bordering authorities. A spokeswoman said: "The figures quoted are well out of date as they relate to 2010-11. Data for 2012-13 was published in December and this clearly shows how the picture has changed in recent years.

"Funding for each council is based on a formula, agreed by all local authorities including the Vale of Glamorgan and the Welsh Local Government Association, which takes into account a range of indicators of 'need to spend'.

"This ensures that the limited pot of money we receive from the UK Government is allocated on an equitable basis across Wales."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said that in the figures for 2012-13, the Vale was still £129 per person below the average allocation, taking into account the revenue support grant and business rates.

"The council's annual revenue budget is determined largely by the level of revenue support grant allocated to it by the Welsh Government.

"Distribution of this grant is based upon the Welsh Government's assessment of a council's relative need to spend to provide a standard level of service for a given year.

"This is known as the 'standard spending assessment' and is based upon formulae updated periodically by Welsh Government to incorporate changes in both financial and non-financial data.

"The revenue support grant, together with the council's share of the National Business Rates Pool, equates to 74 per cent of the council's budget requirement of £205.062m for 2012/13, with the balance being met by council tax. It is supplemented by certain specific and special revenue grants.

"Based upon the Welsh settlement for 2012/13, the amount of revenue support grant and business rates funding provided by Welsh Government per head of population in the Vale is £1,186.

"The average for all Welsh unitary authorities is £1,315."

The spokeswoman added: "If the Vale was funded at the Welsh average this would equate to additional resources of some £16.4 million.

"A one per cent increase in council tax in the Vale raises approximately £519k."

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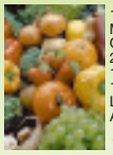
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Official warning issued over deadly bracelets

LAST week's GEM story about local pupils being warned about a dangerous drug that was supposedly in circulation has prompted the Vale Council to issue a warning.

However, the council's trading standards team has added that none of the items is known to have been sold locally.

The trading standards warning follows a national alert over poisonous Jequirity bean bracelets

Residents in the Vale are now being warned about bracelets that contain poisonous red and black Jequirity beans.

The warning following a national alert about the bracelets and the beans that contain the toxin 'abrin'. The toxin is a controlled substance that could cause serious harm if swallowed.

Council officers are advising that none of these bracelets are known to have been sold locally. However, the bracelets have been sold through 36 retailers across the UK – the main source being the Eden Project in Cornwall.

A council spokeswoman said: "The bracelets were on sale last year. People who have bought the bracelets are being urged to bag them, wash their hands and avoid touching their eyes.

"The bagged item may be disposed of safely in the household waste."

Anyone who has information about a local source of the item, should contact Vale of Glamorgan Trading Standards on 01446 700 111.

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'GIVE US A (fuel) BREAK!'

– PLEA FROM WELSH INDUSTRY

by GEM STAFF

WITH the British economy struggling to keep its head above water and fuel prices reaching record levels, a local businessman who has made his mark in the oil industry, told The GEM what he thought the Government should be doing to ease the burden.

Colin Owens is the founder of Oil 4 Wales, which is an independent fuel supplier with its own tankers and petrol stations. It also provides services to homes, businesses and agricultural concerns across the country.

Mr Owens, who is originally from Llantwit Major, said: "Oil is the lifeblood of the economy and when prices rise, as they have done, there is real suffering.

"I believe the Government should consider offering a rebate on duty to industry, hauliers and factories."

He said he was surprised that an industry rebate wasn't higher on the Government's list of considerations because it would provide more job security, would provide a kick-start for the economy and offer a measure of protection to British carriers from foreign hauliers who fill up abroad and do deliveries in the UK.

At the moment, Mr Owens said it was difficult to see prices easing.

"The price of oil is dictated by two things: the political situation and by city traders in places like London and New York.

"Prices won't come down while there is the current uncertainty around Syria and Iran.

"I believe there should also be a transaction tax on the companies of traders who are effectively gambling on the price of oil."

Once Oil 4 Wales quotes a price to a customer, it will honour that price, but Mr Owens pointed out that short term market volatility can cost the company.

"We can quote a price, and then the price goes up 1p overnight and we have to take it on the chin," he explained.

Mr Owens, who counts a number of Vale farmers among his many customers, said he believed it was more important that industry was helped than the individual motorist because boosting the economy and securing jobs was of paramount importance.

Denis Theodore, who runs a business on Bridgend Industrial Estate, told The GEM: "Fuel costs always seem to be on the up.

"We have had to try and make joint deliveries whenever possible, rather than sending the lorry out for just one customer.

He added: "We watch the diesel prices and Cardiff seems to be the cheapest. At the moment, whenever we are down there on business, we fill up to save money."

The Chancellor, George Osborne, is due to unveil his latest budget on March 21 and many people will be hoping there will be a crumb of comfort in it, in the form of a cut in duty.

● *Latest local prices per litre (checked in the last week).*

The Vale:

Esso, Gileston: unleaded 137.9 diesel 146.9.

Texaco Waycock Cross: unleaded 138.9 diesel 145.9.

Morrisons, Barry: unleaded 136.9 diesel 145.9.

Bridgend county borough:

Tesco Cowbridge Road: unleaded 136.9, diesel 143.9.

Texaco, Cowbridge Road: unleaded 136.9, diesel 144.9.

Texaco, Tremains Road: unleaded 139.9, diesel 145.9.

Sainsbury's: unleaded 135.9, diesel 142.9.

Shell, Sarn Park: unleaded 136.9, diesel 142.9.

Co-op Pyle: unleaded 139.9, diesel 144.9.

Esso, South Cornelly: unleaded 139.9, diesel 144.9.

Murco, Laleston: unleaded 141.9, diesel 147.9.

BP, Bridgend Retail Park: unleaded 137.9, diesel 145.9.

First time author celebrates launch of thriller

LEFT: Evonne Wareham is launching her first novel tonight at Waterstones bookshop in Cardiff city centre.

A woman from Barry Island today (March 15) realises the dream of a lifetime with the launch of her first published book taking place at Waterstones bookshop in Cardiff tonight.

Evonne Wareham's thriller is called 'Never Coming Home' and is about a woman called Kaz who is told her daughter has been killed in a car crash, but is then told by a stranger that the youngster might not have been in the car. Kaz then begins a desperate search for her daughter.

Evonne said: "The book has been published by Choc lit which gives a readers' panel the opportunity to put forward their views on a book.

"They give the thumbs up or the thumbs down – fortunately, I had a good reaction.

"The book is a thriller with passionate romance, twists and turns, and is a bit gory in places – afterwards, I thought: 'Gosh, did I write that?' There are 10 dead bodies by the end."

Evonne worked in local government in London for a number of years, but had always dreamed of becoming a published author. She is currently a mature student studying history at Cardiff University.

The good news is that 'Never Coming Home' has been well received and she is working on a second thriller.

Never Coming Home, published by Choc lit, is a paperback original and is priced at £7.99.

HMS Cambria to be honoured

The Vale Council will be awarding the freedom of the county borough to HMS Cambria in recognition of its distinguished service history to Wales.

On Saturday, March 31, the ship's company of HMS Cambria will exercise the honorary freedom with a ceremony and parade through the town of Barry.

(More on this story next week).

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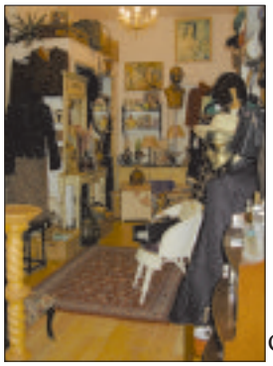

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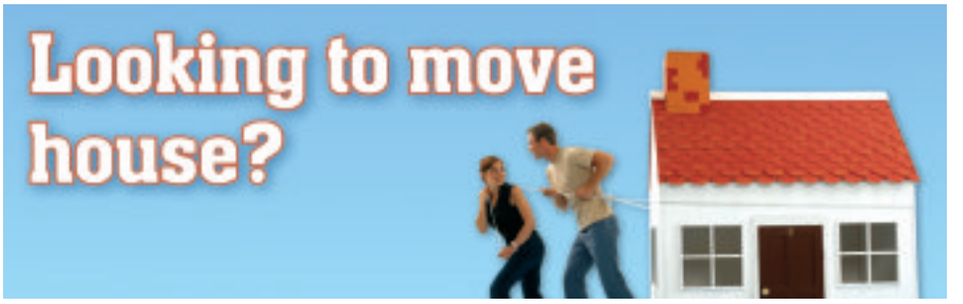

Spring in the air – and it's one of the most popular times to move home...

Whether it be fixing all the odd jobs on your old house ready for the new owners, or making changes in your new home, don't worry – help is at hand – in the form of the businesses on this page, who are here to help you make that move seamless.
From removal firms, new bathroom and kitchen companies, useful handymen and window cleaners, to building maintenance and garden landscapers, we've got it all here.
WHY NOT GIVE THEM A CALL TODAY? IT'S THE RIGHT MOVE!

Useful things to remember when moving house

Here are some useful tips on moving house:

PACKING

Use moving house as an opportunity to sort out your possessions.

Throw away your rubbish, and separate items that can be given to friends or charity shops.

Get boxes well in advance from local shops or supermarkets, and save newspapers for wrapping breakables.

Professional removal companies

Unless you have very few possessions, call in the professionals to help you move house.

It will relieve some of the stress of the big move. You can arrange for it all to be done for you, or you can do the packing yourself – but leave the heavy stuff to the experts.

CHECKLIST

- **Hire a removal company at least two weeks before you move**
- **Use a removal company that is a member of the British Association of Removers**
- **Make a list of your possessions so you can check if you've left anything behind**

It will help if you let the company know the following:

- **The amount of furniture you're moving, so it can choose an adequately-sized truck and plan the number of journeys needed between your old and new home**
- **A rough guess of how many boxes the company needs to pack, so it can estimate how long it will take**
- **The exact time you want the team to arrive**
- **Clear instructions and directions to your new property**
- **Arrange a parking space for the removal van.**
- **Always tell the removal firm well in advance of pieces of furniture which won't go through the door**
- **Make a plan of where the furniture needs to go in your new home**

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Looking to move house?

Government's plan to kickstart housing market

DETAILS of an ambitious scheme aiming to "unlock the aspirations of a new generation of home buyers" were unveiled this week by the Prime Minister and Housing Minister Grant Shapps.

Mr Shapps declared the NewBuy Guarantee open for business – a scheme that could enable an estimated 100,000 prospective and existing homeowners to buy their dream home with much smaller deposits than currently required.

He added that the increased demand for new homes will also give a boost to housebuilders and the economy, and see thousands of workers returning to building sites across the country.

The new deals will mean that instead of a typical buyer requiring a £40,000 deposit for a £200,000 property, they will now only need £10,000.

The Government and housebuilders will help provide security for the loan, so if the house is then sold for less than the outstanding mortgage total, the lender will be able to recover its loss.

The deals will include:

- Barclays, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bellway, Bovis, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at 4.99 per cent fixed rate for two years and 5.89 per cent fixed rate for four years
- Nationwide, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bovis, Bellway, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at just 5.69 per cent fixed rate for three years. and 5.99 fixed rate for five years.
- NatWest, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bellway, Bovis, Linden Homes, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at just 4.29 per cent fixed rate for two years, and 4.99 per cent fixed rate for five years.

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Penarth Computer Club news

Using hard and soft returns – *and the recycle bin*

HARD returns are used to signify the end of a paragraph, whereas soft returns simply signify the end of a line.

When you are typing with a word processor the programme knows when you have come to the end of a line and automatically wraps the typing to the next line.

You need to do nothing because your programme has inserted an automatic soft return. You cannot see it and it will not be printed.

If you later change the text, the automatic soft return allows the programme to adjust its position to suit the changes made.

If you want the soft return to be made after a specific word you can pin it in place by pressing the shift and enter keys and getting a new line to start immediately after the soft return wherever it might be on a line.

Accordingly it is sometimes referred to as the new line character. It will show as a down-and-left arrow if the screen is set to show non-printing characters.

If you simply press enter you will insert a hard return that starts a new paragraph. Its minimum effect is similar to the forced soft return, but it can be set to do more.

As well as forcing the programme to start using the next line it can tell it to allow a bigger space of one and a half lines and to automatically indent the first word by a specified amount.

These things and more can be set up within the programme's Normal.dot template (in Word, for example, use 'help' to find the template and follow the instructions).

Taking the trouble can make life easier for you and make your documents more attractive.

The recycle bin – You can change the settings of your recycle bin to suit the way you work (right click on the recycle bin icon and click 'properties').

If you rarely empty the recycle bin because you fear discarding files you might want to recover; you can increase its storage capacity.

Alternatively, you might reduce its size if you frequently empty it, but most people forget (it is usually set at 10 per cent of the hard disk).

You can turn off the delete confirmation query box that appears whenever you send files to the recycle bin, or even choose not to move files to the recycle bin, but immediately remove them from your computer when deleted.

We suggest that you do not opt to by-pass the bin all the time. For files that you are certain you will never need again you can by-pass the bin occasionally by holding down the shift key as you press delete. Just take due care!

The next meeting is on March 27 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. Kevin S will be explaining e-Bay.

For more information ring Mike on 029 20309579.

HOWARD DESMOND

Army pay book and family are re-united!

FOLLOWING a GEM appeal, an Army pay book from World War Two has been reunited with the family of the soldier it belonged to.

Last week, Tim O'Sullivan of the Royal British Legion highlighted the fact he had papers relating to 4619609 Tpr. Ferguson William John, who was born on November 21, 1917.

His address at the time was 18 Scott Street, Treherbert, Rhondda.

The pay book among the accumulated papers that had came from the Legion's hut in Lombard Street, Barry, which closed 20 years ago.

Two of Mr John's family responded to Tim's appeal, his daughter, who is now the owner of the papers, and a man who turned out to be a close relative.

Tim said: "The two people were first cousins from Barry and had lost touch with each other.

"It is thanks to The GEM that the pay book has been returned to the family."

Trading standards

TRADING Standards will be at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday March 27 (10am-12 noon) to answer any questions informally.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Unlocking the mind is key to Vale golf pro's teaching method

ANYONE who has ever tried to work on their golf swing, soon finds that it can get very complicated.

It is probably where the phrase 'paralysis by analysis' comes from. However, one Vale golf teacher has other ideas.

The first thing you'll learn at John Hasting's Natural Golf Academy, is to unclutter your mind. Golfers spend most of their playing lives absorbing a multitude of tips, advice and information on how to play the game better.

None of what they are told is worthless, but together it can build into a tangle of thoughts, all jostling for attention when the player addresses the ball.

Too often, the result is confusion.

John Hastings offers a philosophy, gained over a lifetime as a top player and teacher, that brings simplicity to the task.

He starts by telling his pupils why they find the game so difficult:-

They ***think*** too much, they ***try*** too hard, they are too ***tense*** and they use too much ***force***.

'Ignore your thoughts, trust your feelings,' he says.

Taking the stress out of their game, making them aware of the ability they have within them, is the basic aim of the Natural Golf Academy at the St Andrews Major Golf Club, near Wenvoe.

John says that it is the only golf training centre of its kind in south Wales, and in it he offers instruction that is slightly off the conventional path of teaching.

Of course, there are certain basics like grip and stance that have to be right and there's technique to be learned.

"But," he says, "the approach has to be simple and I honestly believe that much of the modern way of teaching is making a simple game difficult.'

There's strong element of Buddhism in his theme of relaxation and inner harmony, but he has a thorough technical background, gained not only as a professional player in European tournaments but as a teaching pro in Germany and France. He also had a spell as Craig Stadler's caddy on the US PGA Tour.

His experience has convinced him that the swing should be one easy movement and not the result of a sequence of thoughts.

Hastings was born in St Athan in 1955 and was assistant pro in the mid-1970s at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club and then later at Cardiff Golf Club.

In 1975, he won the Welsh Assistants championship and then went to America where he teamed up with US Masters champion Craig Stadler.

He returned to Wales in 1980 and became head professional at Llantrisant Golf Club. During his three years there, he won the South Wales Professional championship and became course record holder at Llantrisant with a 65 – which still stands today.

In 1984, he moved to Germany to become head pro at one of the country's leading sports hotels and then spent five years teaching at Baden Baden, Germany's third oldest golf club.

In 1989, he moved to France to be head teaching pro at the Bernhard Langer Academy in Strasbourg, Alsace.

On returning to Wales, he became golf coach at Cottrell Park and in 2005 coached the YMG Junior Welsh team at St Andrews, Scotland, where they came third.

His natural golf philosophy has been developing for more than 20 years and he has been rewarded by seeing definite improvement in both beginners and low-handicap players alike.

Among his many pupils is journalist Peter Corrigan, who for the past 14 years has been describing his adventures as a bad player in a column called 'The Hacker' in the *Independent on Sunday*. He has recently transferred this to the website *www.thegolfing-hacker.com* .

"No professional in the world would welcome the sight of me looming up for a lesson," says Corrigan.

"I am an out-and-out 28 handicapper and I have trouble even playing to that. But there is no doubt that John's methods are having a dramatic effect on my game.

"I am swinging more naturally and hitting the ball better, but what I haven't mastered yet is the consistency necessary to bring in a good medal card."

Former Wales and British Lion centre Tom Shanklin is another Hastings pupil who has seen a difference.

He said: "Having lessons from John Hastings at St Andrew's Major Golf Club has massively improved my game.

"In under a year I have managed to drop eight shots. I would highly recommend lessons with John for anyone wanting to develop their game."

SEE ADVERT ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS WEEK'S GEM

ABOVE:
Tom Shanklin (left) is working on his golf game under the guidance of John Hastings (right).

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NEW

COLLEGE ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroms. Semi detached property. West End location. Extensive views from rear. Off road parking. Gas central heating via combi boiler. uPVC double glazing. Viewing advised.
£146,950

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£299,950

NEW

TENNYSON ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed. End of terrace. Living room, kitchen, conservatory, option of off road parking (subject to usual consent). Offered with no chain.
£93,950

NEW

LLANDINHAM ROAD, BARRY
Well presented 1st floor maisonette. Living room, sea views, two double bedrooms, kitchen/diner, utility room, replacement bathroom. 2006 Dunraven upvc windows. Gas central heating via a combi. Option of off road parking to rear (subject to usual consent)
£109,950

NEW

CWM BARRY WAY, BARRY
Extended semi-detached, thee bedrooms, through living room, sitting/office, dining room, wc cloak, utility room, kitchen breakfast. Enclosed garden. Driveway/Garage.
£219,950

NEW

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Four bedroomed, extended, semi deached, living room, sitting room, kitchen, open plan dining room, sun lounge, master ensuite, wc cloakroom. Driveway. Backing onto Porthceri.
£289,950

NEW

ELM GROVE, BARRY
Semi detached bungalow, well presented, living room, three bedrooms, situated on a level position. Enclosed rear garden. uPVC double glazing, gas central heating.
£149,950

NEW

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed, semi detached, traditional box bay fronted, two reception rooms, utility and wc cloak. Larger than average garden. Driveway. Offered with no chain.
£194,950

NEW

VALE STREET, BARRY
Three double bedrooms, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. Ground floor bathroom, uPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Large brick built shed. Lane access. No chain.
£117,500

NEW PRICE

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- Upstairs (lift)
- Central heating/double-glazing

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BARRIANS WAY, BARRY

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
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- Ground floor
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- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

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BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY

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Suitable for a family
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COLLEGE FIELDS CLOSE, BARRY

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- Double glazing
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EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 208834
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- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (steps)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £70.90 per week including service and water charges

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086346
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- One-bed flat
- Second floor (with lift)
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £102.92 pw inc. water rates and service charge

LIDDICOAT COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 966888
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
Requiring level access property
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance

Rent £74.26 per week including service charge

LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 215071
Suitable for a couple or small family
Priority to applicants with mobility issues
- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £78.12 per week inc water & service charges

PENDOYLAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 220387
Suitable for a small family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.84 pw including water and service charges

PETERSWELL ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 220583
Suit for a single person or couple over 55-no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Upstairs (no lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £92.67 per week including alarm, service and water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086368
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bed flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden
- Parking

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PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 221305
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £87.56 per week including service and water charges

POWIS VIEW, BARRY

H4U Reference 1014897
Suit for a mature couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Comunal gardens

Rent £81.75 per week including service charges

RECTORY ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 1047616
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
Preference to tenants with well-managed tenancies
- One-bedroom flat (GF)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £70.95 per week including service charges

TAPSCOTT HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086380
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal garden

Rent £75.46 per week including service charge

TENSING TERRACE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 225844
Suit for a single person or couple over 55–no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Upstairs (no lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £80.26 per week including alarm, service and water charges

THE PASTURES, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086186
Suitable for a small family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
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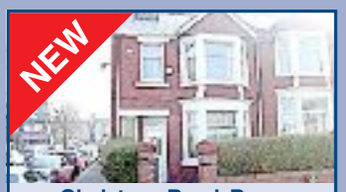

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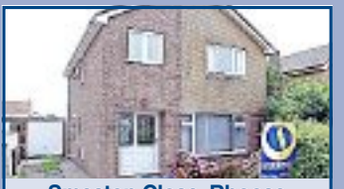

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Please call 0116 247 3323 Agy

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58 Vauxhall Zafira 1598cc
Dark Blue, MOT to 16 Jan 2013; Tax 31 July 2012. 22,000 miles.
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V Reg Ford Fiesta Zetec
Engine very reliable, MOT to Dec 2012, light switch faulty, hence
£400 ono
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Nissan Micra 201 998cc 3-Dr
Met Red, excellent condition, Tax & MOT.
£1,250 ono
07971 185146 11/12

2000 V Reg Ford Escort Finesse 5-Dr
New MOT, 6 months tax.
£575
01446 793637 or 07930 945170 11/12

2003 Peugeot 307 SW 7 Seater 2.0 Auto
Bronze, petrol, leather interior, 12 months MOT, 6 months Tax, panoramic sunroof, E/W, A/C, reverse backing sensors, 90,600 miles.
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75,000 miles, FSH, 1 year road tax.
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Public Notice

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
Damac Transporters Limited
of
Old BRS Yard, Mariners Street, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 5BW
is applying to change an existing licence as follows:
to keep extra goods vehicles and trailers at the operating centre at
East Aberthaw, South Glamorgan CF62 3ZR
to add an Operating Centre to keep **3 vehicles** and **3 trailers** at
Aberthaw Works, East Aberthaw, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 3ZR

Owners or occupiers of land, (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at **Hillcrest House, 386 Harehill Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF** stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.
A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Property

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£221,995
Part exchange 110% as valued by a local chartered surveyor for your present home.
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TO LET
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Good sized one bedroom flat
Furnished. Phone entry system. Use of rear garden.
£395pcm
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Family Notices

FLUCK
Eira Gwendoline
Suddenly on March 7, at Morriston Hospital, Eira of Sigingstone, beloved wife of the late Leslie, dearly loved mother and grandmother.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday March 20, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

The family of Pauline Huish wish to thank all family and friends for their cards, kind thoughts and support at this very sad time.
Many thanks also to Dr Pardoe of Vale Group Practice, Canon Peter Leonard, Penny Snowdon and Mary and Andrew of Thomas Bros Funeral Directors, whose help was invaluable at such a difficult time.

WALSH
Jennifer
On March 8 at Llandough Hospital, after a long illness bravely fought, Jen of Rhoose.
Beloved wife of Jeffrey, dearly loved mother of Jayne, Adrian and Martin, mother-in-law of Steve, Emma and Carol, much loved grandmother of Evan, Laura and Reece.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 19, service 2pm at Porthkerry Church followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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Anniversaries

Rees & Doreen Evans
Congratulations
on your
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
15th March, 2012
With love, Susan, Neil, Keith, Pat, Elliot and Alastair

HARDING
(née Mucklow) **Marjorie**
Marjorie's family would like to thank everybody for their kind messages of sympathy and support.
Thank you to those who could attend Marjorie's funeral service lead by Reverend David Treharne. The service was personal and comforting.
Thank you to College Fields for the care and kindness shown to Marjorie and to William James & Sons Funeral Directors who were very understanding and caring; also to the Blue Anchor who provided the lovely and plentiful buffet.

WILLIAMS
(PITCOCK) Dulcie Moreen
Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on March 7.
Dulcie, beloved mum of Michael, Janise, Joanne, Alun and David, mother-in-law of Maria, Maxine and Debra, adored grandmother and great-grandmother to all her grandchildren.
Resting at AG Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her service in the chapel on Monday March 19 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.00pm.
Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Help For Heroes.

GOLDEN
Carole Louise
Died suddenly, but peacefully on March 5th, 2012
Carole, much loved wife of Laurie, loving mother of Ian and Claire, treasured Mamgu to Natalie, Lucas and Nicholas, and soon to be born grandchild. Mother-in-law to Carl and Sian.
Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Thursday, March 15th at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.
Flowers may be sent to Thomas Bros, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, or if donations preferred, sent to British Heart Foundation, 1st Floor, Bocam Park, Pencoed, Bridgend.
She will be sadly missed by all!

Birthdays

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY
ANN SAGE
on 14 March 2012
HAVE A LOVELY DAY!
*Much love, **Dad, Phil, Sue, Luke & Carly, Aaron, Kirsty & Ava.***

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
24 The Pastures, Barry CF62 9ET
We are acting for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £85,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the agent before exchange of contracts takes place.
Grove Estates, 174 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HN

Lost & Found

LOST
Cockatiel
Grey & yellow with orange cheeks in The Knap area, Barry.
Any information, please call 07791 192356

FOUND
Ginger & White Cat
Sigingstone area, early March.
For more information, **Call 01446 772350**

CAT
Female, white with black & ginger markings, red collar "ROSE"
Warwick Way, BARRY
01446 722629

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Ddyddiad Cau Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn agosau

DYDD Sul, Ebrill 1 yw'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer cystadlaethau cyfansoddi Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, ac mae'r trefnwyr yn galw ar i ddarpar gystadleuwyr beidio gadael pethau tan y munud olaf wrth anfon ceisiadau i swyddfa'r Eisteddfod.

Meddai Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'r testunau eleni wedi cael croeso brwd, a nifer fawr ym mhob cwr o Gymru wedi bod yn sôn am gystadlu. Gydag ychydig wythnosau'n unig i fynd cyn y dyddiad cau, dyma gyfle i ddarllen drwy'r gwaith am y tro olaf, ei argraffu a'i anfon atom mewn da bryd er mwyn iddo ein cyrraedd cyn y dyddiad cau.

"Bob blwyddyn rydym yn clywed am bobl oedd wedi bwriadu cystadlu ond heb gael cyfle i orffen eu gwaith, neu heb lwyddo i gael popeth yn barod mewn pryd, felly dyma'ch atgoffa, gydag ychydig dros bythefnos i fynd tan y dyddiad cau. Ewch yn ôl at eich gwaith a sicrhewch eich bod yn gwneud yr amser dros y dyddiau nesaf i'w gwblhau a'i anfon atom. Pwy â w^yr – efallai mai ar eich desg chi mae'r awdl fuddugol eleni. Felly, ewch ati i orffen eich gwaith da chi."

Mawrth 31 yw dyddiad cau cystadleuaeth Dysgwr y Flwyddyn, ac eleni mae'r Eisteddfod wedi bod yn annog siaradwyr Cymraeg i enwebu dysgwyr ar gyfer y gystadleuaeth fel rhan o'r ymgyrch Carwch yr iaith – Cadwch yr iaith.

Mae cystadleuaeth Dysgwr y Flwyddyn yn un o gystadlaethau pwysicaf a mwyaf poblogaidd yr Eisteddfod, a gobaith yr ymgyrch hon yw sicrhau bod y rheini sydd wedi dysgu Cymraeg a chwarae rhan lawn yn eu cymuned a'r cymdeithas yn cael eu anrhydeddu am eu hymroddiad i'r iaith ac i Gymru.

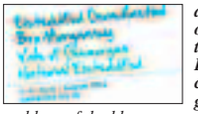
Mae ffurflenni cystadlu Dysgwr y Flwyddyn a'r cystadlaethau cyfansoddi i gyd i'w cael yn y Rhestr Testunau, sydd ar gael i'w lawrlwytho yn rhad ac am ddim o wefan Eisteddfod 2012,neu gellir ei brynu arlein neu mewn siopau ar hyd a lled Cymru.

Chwilio am Superffan Dafydd Iwan

GREDWCH chi byth, ond mae Dafydd Iwan wedi bod yn diddanu cynulleidfaoedd ar hyd a lled Cymru am hanner canrif eleni. Ers y cychwyn cyntaf, yn Abergwaun yn 1962, mae'i ganeuon wedi gafael ym mhobl Cymru fel cyfeiliant i hanes Cymru dros y hanner can mlynedd ddiwethaf. Ac fel rhan o'r dathliadau, bydd Dafydd Iwan yn cyflwyno noson arbennig ym Mhafiliwn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg yn Llandw, eleni.

Dros y blynyddoedd, mae Dafydd Iwan wedi dod yn arwr i lawer, a rydym ni am glywed gan unrhyw un sy'n ddilynwr brwd. Rydym ni'n chwilio am 'superffan' mwyaf Dafydd Iwan. Pa mor bell ydych chi wedi'i deithio er mwyn mynd i un o'i gyngherddau? Lle yw'r lle rhyfeddaf y gwelsoch chi Dafydd Iwan dros y blynyddoedd. Faint o'i recordiau sydd gennych chi, a sawl gwaith ydych chi wedi'i weld yn perfformio dros y degawdau?

Os ydych chi'n ddipyn o ddilynwr, gadedwch i ni wybod. Dros y misoedd nesaf, byddwn yn chwilio am bobl sy'n dwli ar Dafydd, a sydd ag atgofion di-rif am ei yrfa ers y cychwyn. Ac mae'r cyngerdd hwn ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn yn sicr o fod yn atgof heb ei ail i unrhyw un sydd Yma o Hyd!



Gallwch anfon eich hatgofion atom drwy ebostio gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk neu beth am ddefnyddio facebook, www.facebook.com/eisteddfod. Ac os mai atgof byr iawn sydd gennych, mae croeso i chi gysylltu drwy Twitter – www.twitter.com/eisteddfod - a rhowch #superffanDI ar ddiwedd eich neges! Rydan ni'n edrych ymlaen i glywed gennych chi.

Nos Lun, Awst 6, bydd cyfle i deithio drwy'r degawdau gyda Dafydd Iwan a rhai o'i ffrindiau a'i gyd-berfformwyr dros y 50 mlynedd ddiwethaf. Cawn gyfle i fwynhau Heather Jones, Ar Log, ac fe fydd Edward Morus Jones a Chôr Plant Heol-y-March yn ymuno gyda Dafydd i ganu rhai o ffefrynnau ein plentyndod, Caneuon Cwm Rhyd y Rhosyn, ynghyd â'r ddwy chwaer o'r Bontfaen Greta a Miriam Isaac.

Anrheg Sul y Mamau

CHWILIO am anrheg ar gyfer Sul y Mamau os felly beth am brynnu tocyn rhodd yr Eisteddfod er mwyn iddi cael ddod i fwnhau un o gyngherddau'r nos neu diwrnod yn yr Eisteddfod. Mae rhain ar gael i brynnu o wefan yr Eisteddfod www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu dros y ffon 02920 763 777.

Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod closing dates approaching

SUNDAY, April 1, is the closing date for the composition competitions for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, and organisers are calling on potential competitors not to leave it until the last minute to send in their work.

Eisteddfod organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, said: "This year's competitions have been warmly welcomed, with many people across Wales talking about competing. With only a few weeks to go before the closing date, this is the time for a final read of your work, to print it and send it to the office to ensure that it reaches us before the closing date.

"Each year, we hear people saying that they'd meant to compete in the Eisteddfod, but hadn't finished the work or hadn't been able to send everything through by the closing date, so with a little over two weeks to go, this is a chance to remind all our competitors that we need you to send us your work.

"Go back to your compositions, and make the time over the next few days to finish everything and send it to the office. Who knows, this year's winning entry for the Chair could be on your desk. So make the time to complete your work."

March 31 is the closing date for the Welsh Learner of the Year competition, and this year, the Eisteddfod has been encouraging Welsh speakers to nominate learners for the competition, as part of the Give Welsh a Cwtch campaign.

The Welsh Learner of the Year competition is one of the Eisteddfod's most important and popular competitions, and the aim is to ensure that Welsh learners who play a full and integral role in their community and society are celebrated for their commitment to the language and to Wales.

Welsh Learner of the Year entry forms and competitions forms for all the composition competitions are available in the List of Competitions, available to download from the 2012 Eisteddfod website, or can be bought online or in shops across Wales.

Search for the ultimate Dafydd Iwan Superfan

YOU'LL never believe it, but Dafydd Iwan has been entertaining audiences across Wales for half a century this year. And since his first performance, in Fishguard in 1962, his songs have served to accompany the history of Wales as it unfolded over the past 50 years.

Over the years, Dafydd Iwan has been a hero to many people,and we want to hear from anyone who's an avid follower of the star. In short, we're looking for Dafydd Iwan's superfan. How far have you travelled to see him in concert? How many of his records do you have? and how many times have you seen him performing over the decades?

Are you a real Dafydd devotee? Let us know. Over the next few months, we'll be looking for people who people who love the man and his music, and who have fantastic memories about his career.

Contact us with your Dafydd Iwan stories – send them via email, gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk , facebook, www.facebook.com/eisteddfod. And if it's a really short anecdote, get in touch via Twitter – www.twitter.com/eisteddfod – and remember to add #superffanDI at the end of your message! We can't wait to hear from you.

On Monday evening, August 6, we'll be travelling through the decades as Dafydd is joined by some of his friends and fellow performers over the past fifty years. We can enjoy Heather Jones, Ar Log, and Edward Morus Jones and the Heol-y-March Children's Choir will join Dafydd to sing some of our childhood favourites, Caneuon Cwm Rhyd y Rhosyn, and Vale of Glamorgan born Greta Isaac and her sister, Miriam, will also perform on stage.

This concert on the Pavilion stage is sure to become a happy memory for all who've enjoyed his work over the past 50 years.

Mother's Day

STUCK for a Mother's day gift idea? If so why not purchase Eisteddfod gift vouchers to give so that they can come and enjoy a day or evening concert at the Eisteddfod. Gift vouchers are available to buy from the Eisteddfod web site www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by phone 02920 763 777.

Welsh phrase of the week / Ymadrodd yr wythnos:

Sul y Mamau hapus (Seal uh Mam-aye happiss) which means 'Happy Mother's Day'.

SIONED EDWARDS

Bridge results

RESULTS from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 6: First, Mick Green and Noelle Bond, 61.9 per cent; Second, Hilary Laurence and Vivien Liles, 59.52 per cent; Third, Mike Best and Mike Close 58.85 per cent; Hilary and Viv won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. Telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

Girl's Apollo **mountain bike - £30**
2 single divan beds (with drawer base) **£45 each or £75 both**
1 large dolls house - £20
2 Ikea **armchairs,** rust covers, dark wood frame - **£50 both**
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Webber BBQ with attachments **£45**
01446 793873 8/11

Hetty Vacuum Cleaner
Nearly new, immaculate condition.
£60 ono
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£60 ono
Tel: 01446 711300 11/12

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With work surfaces including base & wall cupboards **£250.**
Baumatic Stainless steel range cooker **£250.**
Antique pine double door wardrobe **£250.**
Tel: 07717 761465 11/12

New 2 seater leather sofa £100.
New single bed & mattress (brand new) **£100**.
Hotpoint washing machine (used 3 times) **£150.**
Tel: 01656 890489 1/12

FocusBARRY considers LDP

MEMBERS, supporters and invited guests of FocusBARRY held their March meeting at the Cwm Talwg Inn, Severn Avenue on Friday, March 2.

The main event was a presentation and discussion regarding the Local Development Plan. The group were addressed by an independent planning professional who gave an interesting overview of the plan, the timetable, and how people can get involved and submit comments to the council.

The consultation period ends on April 2 and there are exhibitions at various locations including at Barry Dock offices,from 10am to 1pm, on March 17.

The main issues arising from those attending included concern about the inclusion of green fields to the north and south of Waycock Cross; information being circulated relating to Brynhill which was giving the false impression that houses would not be built on Brynhill; the inability of the main highways in Barry to cope with the transport consequences of the plan; the absence of solutions to address the additional traffic; the accessibility and complexity of the information available, and the impact some developments may have on neighbouring communities.

The group also discussed recent Freedom of Information requests by supporters which had produced information on the Link Road and councillors' attendance at council meetings.

Cemetery Approach was also discussed, particularly the change of heart by political parties and the relating correspondence within the local press.

Members and supporters believe that FocusBARRY is making a difference and Barry is firmly back on the agenda.

People can contact FocusBARRY by writing to 1 Lewis Street, Barry, CF62 6JW, by leaving a message at 01446 721019 or emailing FocusBARRY@live.co.uk.

Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY

READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

No plans for Heritage Centre!

IS it a full halt for heritage, now that it's full steam ahead for Barry Waterfront?

Recently, The GEM has highlighted the progress being made in Barry, and particularly the Waterfront due to 'Section 106' and the Welsh Government's regeneration money. In seeing these plans, I and others in Barry's many heritage groups cannot help but notice the lack of any concrete plans, or even mention of the promised Heritage Centre.

Has this been conveniently forgotten, despite the options appraisal that was carried out last year? Certainly, the soon to be released, findings of the workshop would suggest that at least a hint of such a facility be included in planning. The work carried out by the Welsh Government's Barry Regeneration Team should be commended, but despite the pot of funds rapidly emptying we are still no closer to our goal of a facility in which to preserve and highlight the heritage of Barry and the Vale than we were two years ago, when the pot was full.

Even the Welsh Government's Heritage Minister failed to mention such a facility in his rosy painting of the town's regeneration.

One should only look to the once prosperous mining town of Blaenavon to see the effect that incorporating Heritage into a regeneration plan can bring.

This remote Valleys town could have been one of any number that faced the blight of unemployment and dereliction, but it made the most of its heritage and is now a prime tourist destination, bringing with it much needed jobs.

The quest for a heritage centre in Barry is not new. The cause has been discussed for well over a century.

What is needed now is for the people who can help to make this a reality to act – while there is still some money in the pot with which to make it happen.

Let's not miss this opportunity to celebrate our heritage, and stop Barry from becoming just a commuter town for Cardiff.

Ade Pitman,
Chair, Vale Heritage Centre Coalition

'TOO MANY HOUSES, TOO FEW AMENITIES'

THE Vale Council has transformed the resort of Barry Island with its previous amenities, in the form of the Knap ido, Butlins Holiday Camp, Bindles and the Royal Cinema, into a housing estate by the sea.

Similarly, the public can see that the current traffic situation at places like Port Road is extremely busy at rush hour.

There are no extra roads being considered to cope with the extra traffic that will be generated with the building of houses at Rhoose, Waycock Cross and possibly the golf course. This is a recipe for future gridlock from Rhoose to Barry.

It is of particular concern that 1,375 houses are being considered in the future at Rhoose Point.

It was promised amenities such as a small school, a public house and a golf course, none of which materialised.

Surely it would be wise to halt any plans for more housing until infrastructure work is completed to the satisfaction of the current residents.

There are like-minded people out there who share my views on these issues and that is why I am standing as an independent in the forthcoming elections under the umbrella organisation of Focus Rhoose, whose principles are similar to mine in advocating a reduction in councillors' allowances and more transparency in local government.

Philip John Clarke,
Independent candidate for Rhoose

Local teenagers overcome autism and become sports coaches for younger pupils

Ashgrove Special Needs School pupils Joe Blackley (front left) and Ben Nicholas (front right), together with pupils and staff from the school and the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales Officer, Simon Jones.

TWO young autistic teenagers at Ashgrove Special Needs School, Penarth, are helping younger pupils, as sports coaches at the school.

Ben Nicholas and Joe Blackley (both 18) took their interest in sport to a new level by joining a Dragon Sport course with the Vale Council's sports and play development team, to learn skills needed to organise and lead sports sessions for children.

Joe said: "A couple of years ago, I would have felt scared to coach sport, but now I'm much more confident. Sport has changed my life and I really like teaching the pupils each week. I am going on a football coaching course soon and I'll be introducing different sports into my sessions too."

Ben, from Barry, said: "I wasn't particularly interested in sport until fairly recently, but now I love sport and coaching, and it has had a big impact on me. Sport has helped make me healthier and fitter than I ever was and I enjoy making sports such as football and athletics really fun activities that everyone can enjoy."

Dragon Sport Organisers courses are run throughout the year in the Vale of Glamorgan. If you'd like to find out how you can play your part in giving youngsters an excellent start to their sporting education, please call the Vale Council's Active Young People Co-ordinator Ben Williams on 01446 704795.

For details about the wide range of sports available locally for people of all ages with disabilities, please call Simon Jones on 01446 704728 or go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

PICTURED: Morganne Gomez Jones, Keita Enfield, Jamie Halford, Dominic Todd, Matthew Bennett, Morgan Harrhy. Lucy Newman, Shannon Haysham, Cameron Williams, Thomas Haysham, Bradley Halford, Cian Allen, Evan Baron and Ollie Tipples.

CADOXTON TAE KWON DO AT ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do travelled to Cheltenham where more than 300 competitors from all over the UK converged to take place in the Global Tae Kwon Do International English championships.

The championship started with the pattern section with Thomas Haysham taking first place and Matthew Bennett taking third in their categories.

Once the pattern sections were completed, the point stop and continuous sparring categories started.

Ollie Tipples had some bad luck, just missing out by one point to take second in the point sparring.

He was then unfortunate to have some dubious judging in the continuous sparring, eventually taking third place.

Shannon Haysham did exceptionally well to take second place in both the girls lightweight point and continuous sparring.

Dominating his category, young Cameron Williams took first place in the point sparring.

Unlucky to be in the same point sparring category, Cian Allen and Evan Baron both fought their way through to take second and third places respectively.

Having to compete against taller competitors, Thomas Haysham did extremely well to take second places in both boys point and continuous sparring.

Not to disappoint, Morganne Gomez Jones took second place in point and first in the continuous sparring, while Dominic Todd took first in his point and second in continuous sparring.

Competing in the men's heavyweight point sparring category, Jamie Halford came away with third place.

Bradley Halford took first place in his continuous and first in his point sparring categories.

Not to be left out, Lucy Newman and Keita Enfield also took first place in continous and first place in their point sparring categories, making all three double GTI English champions.

Just missing out on a podium place this time were Morgan Harrhy and young Cody Jacobsen.

Instructor and coach Ron Thomas would like to thank the parents for their support and use of their cars on the day as we nearly missed out due to the coach not turning up as planned.

RON THOMAS

The Huskies notch up two revenge wins

AFTER a successful January, the Barry Huskies continued their improved form in February with the first team picking up two more victories.

The Huskies' first win was against Swansea University 65-55, avenging an agonising loss earlier in the season.

This was a low scoring, defensive game from both sides, but with six Huskies players scoring in double figures, the students could not completely contain the home side. Twenty-year-old James Williams top scored with 16 points.

This victory was quickly followed up with an 86-66 win away at Cardiff Capitals, again avenging an early season defeat. This victory was described by coach Trigg as being "the best team performance of the season".

Balanced scoring saw the Huskies outscore the Capitals in every quarter and, despite being a much smaller team, the Huskies team play completely dominated the game. Lloyd Roberts top scored for the Huskies with 25 points.

The good form was quickly cut short when a young and very talented Kenfig Cougars side came to Barry and won 77-50. Without leading scorer Lloyd Roberts, the Huskies' older squad didn't have the legs to keep up with the young visitors, who dominated throughout.

Only veteran players Ian Gibbons (13 points) and Elliott Thomas (11) scored in double figures. Following this run of results, coach Trigg said: "We've picked up some good wins and started to click as a team the past few weeks. I'm particularly pleased to see our younger players step up and play some consistent basketball."

The Huskies second team only played one game, suffering a narrow 72-67 loss away at the Cardiff Capitals. This was a tough loss as the young side almost won despite playing without leading scorer Jack Dyer, but a lack of consistent scoring from the Huskies proved to be their undoing. Dave Pitman top scored with 27 points.

The Huskies are still recruiting from all age groups from under-12 to senior. For more details contact Alun Rees on 029 20531531, visit www.barryhuskies.net or see our Facebook page, Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

ET

Llantwit Major JFC under-14s through to Lions Cup semi-final

LIONS Club International hold an annual Five Nation football competition for players under 14 years of age and over the last few years, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club have sponsored a team with great success.

This season, the Llantwit Major JFC under-14s have successfully progressed through earlier rounds to the quarter final, which was played at Bridgewater against Newquay FC.

The ground conditions on the day were heavy and a strong wind influenced play; in the first half the quality of the football was very high, with Newquay just shading overall possession.

Even so, Llantwit Major forward Richard Stephens scored an excellent goal for a first half lead of 1-0.

Both teams worked hard and the football in the second half was a joy to watch.

Llantwit Major were the stronger team and eventually pressure told on Newquay, who conceded an own goal.

Both teams continued to fight to the finish. Just before the final whistle, Newquay scored a consolation goal to finish the game 2-1 in Llantwit's favour.

Congratulations to the Llantwit Major JFC squad and to coaches Phil Clay and Russell, who now await the semi-final draw.

MIKE HALL

Club qualifies for Eurocup 2012

RECENTLY, three clubs battled it out in the 2012 Welsh Club Championship, hosted at the Monkstone Petanque Club.

The three clubs were Penarth Petanque Club, Wenvoe Petanque Club and The Wheatsheaf Boule Club.

After a series of triples and doubles matches against each other, the final standing was: First, The Wheatsheaf Boule Club; second, Wenvoe Petanque Club; third, Penarth Petanque Club.

The Wheatsheaf Boule Club will now be formally invited to enter the 2012 EuroCup.

JS

Seaview lads results

FISHING has been quiet recently, with a few codling appearing to a lucky handful of anglers while rockling have made up the bags.

Evening match attendances are down on last year reflecting this. On top of this doom and gloom, a trawler was sailing the shoreline close in at Sully Bay, cleaning out what little fish are remaining.

On February 26, 15 fished but only four weighed in, while the previous Friday evening, the match was won by Paul Coles with a solitary dogfish. Sunday's honours went to Aida Harris with a mixed bag, Paul Crooke was in second, with Steve Doble and Roger Green on their tails.

Barrivale Bridge Club

Pictured are the club mixed pairs winners, Mike Close and Carol James.

RESULTS from Barrivale: February 28: First, Mick Green and Denis Mottram, 59.52 per cent; second, Jane Brook and Judith Owen, 57.81 per cent; third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 55.73 per cent. Jane and Judith won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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THINK of jazz and the famous musicians Louis Armstrong, Billie Holliday, Count Basie, Miles Davis and Duke Ellington spring to mind.

My parents are fans and so were my grandparents, and perhaps this is why Honda chose the name for its popular hatchback, which has been around for the past 11 years.

Each one that I see on the roads seems to be driven by a more mature motorist. And so it was with some fear of prematurely ageing that I stepped inside the latest 1.2 litre Jazz, complete with facelift, for 2012.

Would it make me feel like I needed my own facelift by the end of our relationship?

Its strengths are immediately obvious – the interior, with large dials and switches are user-friendly, especially for the elderly. The compact size makes it a good city car.

Its rear seats easily fold flat while the front ones can fully recline, giving a massive total length of 2,400mm inside the car.

The 399-litre boot beats all its rivals hands down, including the Ford Focus. The Jazz's double boot with under-floor storage combines with the regular boot space to accommodate more awkward items.

However, the Jazz's performance is sloth-like. Although the five-speed manual box is decisive, progress through the gears is pretty painful, particularly if you're trying to conserve fuel.

The 2012 Honda Jazz.

A better option is the punchier 1.4-litre variant.

Passengers who like their drinks will be pleased to see an array of cup holders and there's plenty of storage space too, thanks to door pockets and a double glove box. Rear passengers get privacy glass as well.

The fuel gauge drops too quickly for my liking but this isn't surprising when you learn there's only a 42-litre tank, compared to the standard 60 or so.

However, carrying less petrol means reduced weight and, therefore, greater efficiency.

That fuel gauge could be more helpful though, because when the refuel light comes on at 33 miles range exactly and the driver then refills with say, six-and-a-half litres (well over one gallon), it refuses to rise back up.

To make matters even worse, the digital reading also insists that it needs more fuel, which is not true and very unnerving.

Logic suggests that it should easily travel 50 miles, as that is what it averages per gallon and my test proves that it does.

Refilling with at least eight litres results in the gauge moving, I am advised.

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Next Le Crunch – and Wales must seize their big moment!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

"We must stay focused…Italy will be hoping to find us complacent and with one eye on the French game, but nothing less than victory on Saturday will be accepted by this Wales team, or satisfy the nation behind us - and all of that leaves the players themselves brimming with ruthless intent..."

HEAD COACH Warren Gatland's carefully-weighted words to his young troops on the eve of Wales' penultimate Six Nations test last weekend, were designed to warn against being carried away on the torrent of hype being whipped up in the media, while calling on their new-found steely resolve to handle the mounting pressure of expectation, as they close in on a third Grand Slam in eight campaigns.

He was right, of course, to spell out that victory over the wooden spoon contenders at the Millennium Stadium was seen as a mere formality by buoyant Welsh fans, with many pundits predicting the hapless Azzurri would be put to the sword in a hopelessly one-sided mismatch with the Six Nations table-toppers.

Italy's world class No 8, Sergio Parisse, also added to this pre-match mood by gloomily conceding that his team stood little or no chance against "the best team in the championship," who had already disposed of Ireland, England and Scotland.

Whether or not the Italian captain was offering a refreshingly candid assessment, or hoping to give his team a small psychological edge by tapping into fears of Welsh complacency, the stage was set for the mother of all rugby upsets by written-off underdogs who knew they really had nothing to lose.

In fact, from the kick-off, the Italian defence immediately came under intense pressure, as powerful Welsh thrusts threatened to overwhelm their lines, and when Leigh Halfpenny lofted over a resulting penalty kick in the eighth minute, to the massed ranks of the faithful it seemed an early sign of things to come.

Not so, for the visitors struck back barely two minutes later with a penalty kick of their own and then continued to thwart their vaunted opponents, limiting them to just two more Halfpenny penalties in a very scrappy first half, not helped by a pedantic referee's constant whistle-blowing.

For the stubborn Italians it ended with a highly respectable 9-3 scoreline – with little sign at this stage, of them being buried under the predicted avalanche of Welsh points.

Things began to change 10 minutes after the change-over, when Jamie Roberts set out to show the hero of Twickenham – and his centre rival, Scott Williams – that "*anything you can do, I can do better*!" – with a 50-yard solo try, converted by Halfpenny, whose controversial yellow card was to reduce Wales to 14 men for 10 minutes (a fairly commonplace situation for Wales these days!)

No matter, for outside half Rhys Priestland, who looked slightly more comfortable than was the case at Twickenham, was on hand to increase the margin to 19-3 with a fourth penalty.

With five minutes to go to the final whistle, replacement Ryan Jones plunged over near the posts, but to his obvious chagrin, the try was disallowed.

However, Wales finally stretched the margin of victory to 24-3 with a barn-storming try by man-of-the-match, right wing Alex Cuthbert, which Priestland failed to convert, and the referee signalled the end of a stop-start match that lacked the spark to set the expectant stadium alight.

It was, nevertheless, a job well done against game but out-gunned opponents who kept battling to the last, without ever really threatening the dream of a third Welsh Grand Slam party.

This will now climax on Saturday with a vengeance (in more ways than one!) when the French arrive in town, still reeling from their shock 24-22 defeat by a rejuvenated England side who had run in three tries in Paris.

Nevertheless, as every rugby follower knows full well, when it comes to Les Bleus, there is no guarantee that the mediocre team which performed in such an untypical French way against the English will be the same one that turns up against Wales – as the latter seek, not only to nail the Grand Slam, but erase the memory of that semi-final defeat in last year's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

The Welsh camp also know that despite their four-match winning run, they are still not quite the finished article.

Picture by Huw Evans agency.

Alex Cuthbert's power takes him over the line.

They have not so far managed to hit top gear in this Six Nations and there are still some frustrating blemishes to be ironed out – before any talk of victory over the notoriously unpredictable French – never mind another Grand Slam.

That said, this fast-developing young Welsh side have already shown a maturity way beyond their years and are fully capable of rising to the occasion, whichever starting line-up is named today.

First, though, they must take the next step up and heed former All Black Gatland's call for the "ruthless intent" that is part and parcel of the rugby mindset in his homeland.

Then the Grand Slam celebrations can truly begin in earnest, and who knows what that could herald for Welsh rugby in the future?

Dinas' good form continues against Caerau

DINAS POWYS 3
CAERAU FC 0

THIS win lifted Dinas to third place in Division 2 and their fine recent form means they have taken 19 points from a possible 21 in their last seven games.

The hosts went straight on the attack with their wide men Liam Jeremy and Robbie Fowler causing panic in the Caerau defence from the off, Jeremy crossing for Tedstone to volley. His shot was on target but it hit a defender and went out for a corner.

Fowler was also putting in some good crosses to the far post without any end product. It was all Dinas in the first 15 minutes, another cross from Jeremy found Steffan Davies but his effort was off target.

The visitors gradually got into the game without ever really threatening the Dinas goal. A nasty clash of heads brought a booking for the visitors' number 5 Sam Cox but Keiron Harman was able to continue after treatment.

The last 5 minutes of the half saw Caerau pressing and Dale Price fired a free-kick just wide from 25 yards and the same player had another chance from 12 yards which Damien Lack dived to cover but again, the shot was just wide and the half ended with no score but Dinas having the lion's share of possession.

The second period was full of action, with Dinas finding themselves 2-0 up in the first 5 minutes.

It was Liam Jeremy who again jinked his way into the box and was tripped with the referee pointing to the spot.

Skipper for the day, Adam Raymond, stepped up and smashed the spot kick into the back of the net giving Chris Barlow no chance and a couple of minutes later a Caerau clearance fell invitingly to Richard Yarr, who hit a tremendous shot from 25 yards which Barlow could only watch sail past him into the net.

This seemed to knock the stuffing out of the visitors and most of the pressure was coming from Dinas.

With around 20 minutes remaining they made the game safe when Steffan Davies broke through the Caerau defence to shoot, his effort was parried by Barlow into the path of Gareth Tedstone who had time to control it and score from three yards for 3-0.

Manager Mark Dunford then introduced three substitutes, Jordan Phillips, Joe Briscombe and himself.

Caerau had one more chance from a free kick taken by Price who found Andrew Williams but he headed over the bar. Briscombe looked lively when he came on and evaded several challenges before eventually being crowded out before he could get a shot away.

Manager Dunford then had a golden opportunity to make it 4-0 with a minute remaining when he found himself one on one with the keeper but screwed his shot wide of the upright.

Squad: 1 Damien Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Keiron Harding, 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Nicky Bruce, 6 Adam Raymond (1), 7 Robbie Fowler, 8 Richard Yarr (1), 9 Steffan Davies, 10 Gareth Tedstone (1), 11 Liam Jeremy, 12 Jordan Phillips, 14 Joe Briscombe, 15 Mark Dunford.

Dinas are away to Bettws this Saturday with a 2.30pm kick off.

Further details can be found on the club's website at *www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk.* **PK**

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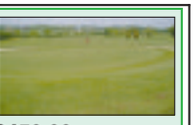

Full Member 1st Year - only **£450.00**
22-30 years old - only **£300**
18-21 years old - only **£150**

Under 12 - only **£50** 12-17 years old - only **£70**

Superb Society Packages from £18

Clubhouse and Catering available for ALL occasions

Great opportunity to take up golf or to join a new club and experience a family friendly golf club with a great welcome and fantastic social atmosphere.

Join Today – Play Today!

ST ANDREWS MAJOR GOLF CLUB
Coldbrook Road East, Nr Cadoxton, Barry
Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BL
Tel: 01446 722227 Fax: 01446 748953
www.standrewsmajorgolfclub.com
info@standrewsmajorgolfclub.com

JOHN HASTINGS
'Natural Golf Academy'
at **St Andrews Major Golf Club**

GOLF LESSONS
1x30 mins £19 1x40 mins £25 1x60 mins £35

SPECIAL OFFERS
3x30 mins £45 3x40 mins £60 6x30 mins £85

JUNIOR GOLF LESSONS

5 - 13 years	14 - 18 years
1x30 minutes £15	1x30 minutes £17
3x30 minutes £40	3x30 minutes £45
6x30 minutes £75	6x30 minutes £80

YOUNG MASTERS ACADEMY
7 Week Programme - £75

GROUP LESSONS
2 persons x 60minutes - £20 pp
3 persons x 60minutes - £15 pp
4 persons x 60minutes - £12 pp

For more details call John on
07761 137265

Email hastings328@internet.com
Website natural-golf.co.uk

An easier way to better golf at South Wales' only Natural Golf Academy.

[LEEKES BATHROOMS]

Calming waters

Combining style and value in equal measure, Leekes' inspirational yet affordable bathroom designs will help create a place you'll long to relax in.

If you are seeking a stress free sanctuary within your home, make your bathroom an oasis of calm where you can let the strains of the day literally drain away.

Creating the perfect place to unwind is easy and affordable with Leekes - simply order today and after deposit pay nothing until January 2013. Then, enjoy affordable and interest free* monthly repayments PLUS up to 20% off† finishing touches to complete your look.

BUY NOW PAY 2013

PLUS up to 2 years Interest Free Credit*

[BATHROOMS | fact file]

- Over 100 bathrooms and showers on display
- Design innovation from leading manufacturers including Jacuzzi, Kohler, Heritage, Roman and Daryl
- Stylish storage and furniture solutions available from Utopia and Casa
- Co-ordinating towels, accessories and tiles available in this season's latest colours
- Installation by qualified and professional craftsmen if required

save up to **20% OFF†** finishing touches

[BATHROOM ACCESSORIES]

[TOWELS]

[TILES]

[PAINT]

[WALLPAPER]

[LEEKES CONSERVATORIES, ORANGERIES & VERANDAS]

Your place in the sun

This spring, reserve your own special place in the sun with a conservatory, orangery or veranda from Leekes.

With prices starting from as little as £9,995 for the exclusive Casa range plus 20% off† finishing touches for a limited time only, a Leekes conservatory could be yours with just a £100 deposit to pay today.

Arrange your FREE design consultation with a Leekes consultant to find out more about the fantastic range of sizes, styles, colours and finishes available.

Ask about affordable finance from

7.9% APR

REPRESENTATIVE

Leekes Premier Finance Plan

Finance is subject to status, ask staff for details

0800 015 7749 leekes.co.uk/quote

[LEEKES LOUNGE, DINING & BEDROOM FURNITURE]

Create a lifestyle, not just a room

Discover a wide choice of designs for all living, dining and bedroom spaces that will balance the looks you love with offers you're sure to adore, including free finance for a limited period only.*

If a spring home makeover is on the cards in 2012, Leekes have just the right combination of offers to make your dreams a reality. Take your pick from the fantastic selection of sofas, dining sets and bedroom furniture - and after deposit pay nothing until January 2013. Then let our interior design specialists help you to complete your look with up to 20% off† 'finishing touches' including paints, made to measure curtains, cushions, accessories and more.

[ACCESSORIES]

[CUSHIONS]

[LIGHTING]

[GLASSWARE]

[TABLEWARE]

Everything you need to know about Leekes

- UK's largest independent home department store
- Home to the best brands including leading UK designers
- Family-owned business trading in retail since 1897
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- Lowest prices guaranteed - supported by our money back promise
- Interiors experts, selling everything for the home under one roof
- Complete design, planning, and installation service
- Flexible and affordable finance options

Your nearest Leekes store is at:

Llantrisant, Cowbridge Road, RCT. CF72 8XU

Telephone **0845 050 8240** | For details of all our offers visit **leekes.co.uk**

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

*Finance is subject to status, conditions and minimum spend applies. A 10% deposit is required. Certain departments including conservatories and clearance items are excluded from the deferred finance promotion. †Discount will be applied upon presentation of valid finishing touches card only. Subject to a minimum spend of £1000 on fitted bathrooms, fitted kitchens, furniture and conservatories. Discount varies according to spend. Offers end 28th March 2012.

Leekes
You're home